FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-017
Thursday
28 January 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-017 CONTENTS *28 January 1993*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Impasse' Announced in Libya-West Dispute *[Beirut Radio]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Delegation Members React to Ruling *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Palestinian Officials React to Israeli Court Ruling 1
  'Ashrawi Comments on Ruling *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
  'Abd-Rabbuh Reacts to Ruling *[Amman Radio]* 1
  'Urgent' Arab Meeting Sought *[AFP]* 2
  PLO Member Views U.S. Position *[MENA]* 2
  Delegate Says End to Peace Process *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
PLO To Postpone Talks With Israeli Delegation *[AFP]* 2
UN Report Welcomed; Casualty Data Presented *[HA'ARETZ 27 Jan]* 3
Qaddumi on Deportees, Ties With U.S., Talks *[MENA]* 3
UN Envoy Rules Out 'Compromise' on Deportees *[Cairo Radio]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Mubarak Views Gulf, Mideast Peace Process *[Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 25 Jan]* 7
Opposition Criticizes U.S. Handling of Iraq *[AL-AHRAR 25 Jan]* 9
Arab Action on 'Every Level' Urged About Deportees *[Cairo Radio]* 10
Writers Analyse Iraq Strike, Results *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 18 Jan]* 10
Mubarak Meets Writers, Views Current Issues *[MENA]* 11
Two Arrested in Connection With Police Deaths *[AFP]* 13
Further Attempt on Policemen Reported Foiled *[AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]* 13

Sudan

Al-Bashir on U.S., Syrian Hala'ib Mediation *[SUNA]* 13
Ministry Official Briefs Ambassadors on Hala'ib *[Omdurman Radio]* 13
Equatoria State Governor Reports Stability in Torit *[SUNA]* 14

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Oman

Official Comments on Iran, New U.S President *[London AL-HAYAH 24 Jan]* 15
Italian Foreign Under Secretary Visits Muscat *[Rome ANSA]* 17

Qatar

Turkish Prime Minister Arrives in Doha 28 Jan *[WAKH]* 17

Saudi Arabia

Further Reportage on Turkish Prime Minister's Visit 18

    Comments on Talks With King *[SPA]* 18
    Attends Luncheon *[SPA]* 18
    Departs Jeddah *[SPA]* 18

IRAQ

UN's Butrus-Ghali Proposes Fresh Dialogue *[MENA]* 19
UN Moves To Set Up Long-Term Weapons Monitoring *[AFP]* 19
Assembly Denounces UN Decision To Extend Blockade *[INA]* 19
Prime Minister Predicts End to 'Unjust' Situation *[AL-DUSTUR 28 Jan]* 19
Turkey Criticized for Incirlik Base's Use by West *[HURRIYET 19 Jan]* 20
Seriousness of Peace Initiative Stressed *[INA]* 20
Saddam Chairs Air Force, Air Defense Meetings *[INA]* 20
Saddam Reportedly Preparing Offensive in North *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 21
Army Reportedly Conducts Exercises in South *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 21
Bomb Reported at Security Headquarters in Khakurk *[Tehran TV]* 21
Iranian Monafiqin Members Killed in Baghdad Ambush *[Tehran Radio]* 21
Foreign Minister Comments on Cease-Fire, U.S. *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 27 Jan]* 22
Opposition Leader Interviewed by Kuwaiti Radio *[Kuwait Radio]* 23

ISRAEL

Court Rules Deportations Legal; Officials React 25
    Decision Delivered *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
    More on Ruling *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
    Prime Minister Issues Communique *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
    Ben-Eli'ezer Comments *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 26
    Likud, NRP, Moledet Welcome Decision *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
    Attorney General on Ruling *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 26
    Talks Said To Continue Despite Ruling *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
    Government 'Exonerated' by Court *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
    Envoy on Upcoming UN Session *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
    Prime Minister on Deportations *[Jerusalem TV]* 29
Court Rejects Appeal Against Rabinovich as U.S. Envoy *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Peres, al-Husayni Hold 'Secret' Meeting on Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34

JORDAN

Prime Minister Reacts to Israeli Court Ruling *[Amman Radio]* 36
Minister Departs for Debt Talks in France, UK *[Amman Radio]* 36
    Talks To Begin 28 Jan *[JORDAN TIMES 28-29 Jan]* 36
Arms Collection Delayed Pending Completion of Study *[Amman TV]* 37
Interior Ministry Legalizes 10th Political Party *[JORDAN TIMES 28-29 Jan]* 37

LEBANON

Birri Meets President, Sees Need To Avoid UNIFIL Reduction *[VOL]* 38
Deportees Begin Hunger Strike, al-Rantisi Urges 'Pressure' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 38
Israelis Reinforce Zummarayya Post; al-Biqa' Shelled 27 Jan *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 38
Defense Minister on 'Grave Consequences' of U.S. Using Veto *[MENA]* 38
PRC Envoy Comments on Deportation; al-Rantisi Not To Appeal *[VOL]* 39
Minister Insists Palestinians Must Return *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Jan]* 39
Al-Rantisi's 'First Comment' on Court Ruling Cited *[Beirut Radio]* 40
Deportees' Spokesmen Challenge UN To 'Prove Authority' *[AFP]* 40

SYRIA

Al-Shar' on Syria's Conditions To Join Multilaterals *[Damascus Radio]* 41
UN Report Urging Sanctions on Israel Hailed *[Damascus Radio]* 41
'Strong' UN Resolution Against Israel Urged *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Change in U.S. Stand Urged To Save Peace Process *[Damascus Radio]* 42

- U.S. Asked To Abandon 'Blind Support' for Israel *[Damascus Radio]* 43
- 'Balanced' U.S. Position in Middle East Urged *[Damascus Radio]* 44
- Minister Talas Receives Yemeni Delegation *[Damascus Radio]* 44

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

- Hekmatyar Forces Pushed Back South of Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 45
- Value of Negotiations With Hekmatyar Doubted *[Kabul Radio]* 45
- Rabbani Issues Decree on Protection of Private Property *[Kabul Radio]* 46
- Rabbani Sends Congratulations to Indian President *[Kabul Radio]* 46

Bangladesh

- Accord With Burma To Expedite Refugee Repatriation *[Dhaka Radio]* 46
- Opposition Leader Admits Rival Group Clashes *[Dhaka Radio]* 47
- Foreign Minister, UN Chief Discuss Rohingya Refugees *[Dhaka Radio]* 47

India

- Russia's Yeltsin Arrives in New Delhi *[Delhi Radio]* 47
  - Ceremonial Welcome *[Delhi Radio]* 47
  - Support on Kashmir Issue Promised *[Delhi Radio]* 48
  - Agreements Signed *[Delhi Radio]* 48
- UK Prime Minister Concludes 5-Day Visit 48
  - To Visit Gulf States *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 48
  - Increased Investment Urged *[Delhi Radio]* 48
  - Departure From Bombay for Muscat *[Delhi Radio]* 49
- France, UK, Russia Seeking To Sell Jet Trainers *[AFP]* 49
- Media Comment on Prospects for U.S. Relations 50
  - Editorial Hopes for Change *[PATRIOT 16 Jan]* 50
  - Scope for Improvement *[Delhi Radio]* 50
  - More Military Cooperation Expected *[INDIAN EXPRESS 23 Jan]* 51
- Army Reportedly Still on 'Full Alert' in Punjab *[INDIAN EXPRESS 20 Jan]* 51
- Pakistan's Increased Offensive Capability Viewed *[INDIAN EXPRESS 5 Jan]* 52
- Pakistani Army's Potential Purchase of T-72 Tanks Noted *[INDIAN EXPRESS 7 Jan]* 53
- U.S. Decision To End Frigate Lease to Pakistan Viewed *[INDIAN EXPRESS 21 Jan]* 53
- Possible Congress-Janata Dal-Ajit Coalition Assessed *[INDIAN EXPRESS 23 Jan]* 54
- Ex-UP Chief Minister Denies BJP Role in Mosque Razing *[Delhi Radio]* 54
- Curfew-Bound Areas of Delhi Continue Tense *[Delhi Radio]* 55
- Rioting Flares in Bombay; 2 Killed *[Delhi Radio]* 55
- Naxalites Kill Police Officer in Andhra Pradesh *[Delhi Radio]* 55
- Chief of Banned Muslim Organization Surrenders *[Delhi Radio]* 55

Iran

- Velayati Sees No Change in U.S. Behavior *[IRNA]* 55
- Velayati, Butrus-Ghali Exchange Messages on POWs *[Tehran TV]* 55
- U.S. Acts To Predicate 'Goodwill' or 'Hostility' *[TEHRAN TIMES 20 Jan]* 55
- Clinton Seen 'Devoid' of 'Original Ideas' *[TEHRAN TIMES 23 Jan]* 56
- Christopher 'Forced To Continue' Republican Policy *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 5 Jan]* 57
- U.S. Reaction to Israeli Expulsion Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* 57
- 'Stable, Harmonized' Gulf Said Not Best for West *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 20 Jan]* 58
- Scenarios for Future Iran-U.S. Relations Viewed *[KEYHAN 17 Jan]* 58
- Talks With Turkey on Border Security Praised *[Tehran Radio]* 59
- Pakistani Foreign Secretary Meets Velayati *[Islamabad Radio]* 59
- German Economic Delegation Arrives *[Tehran TV]* 59
  - Meeting With Deputy Minister *[IRNA]* 60
  - Symposium Held on Trade Links *[IRNA]* 60
- Regional Cooperation, West's Expulsion Called For *[HAMSHAHRI 16 Jan]* 60

Velayati: Ties With Central Asian States Improving *[IRNA]* 61
'Constructive Role' in Central Asia Praised *[IRNA]* 61
Resolving Differences in Afghanistan Urged *[Tehran Radio]* 62
Press Warns Against Disintegration of Afghanistan *[IRNA]* 62
Situation of Exiled Palestinians Viewed *[Tehran International]* 63
Support Stressed for Oppressed Tajik People *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Oil Production Lowered To Stabilize Market *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Contents of Budget Bill Before Majles Detailed *[Tehran Radio]* 65
    Deputy Criticizes Bill *[Tehran Radio]* 66
    Debates Continue *[Tehran Radio]* 66
    Majles Official Comments *[Tehran Radio]* 66
GCC Arms Purchases, Military Inactivity Criticized *[IRNA]* 67
Islamic World Said Undergoing 'Historical Experiment' *[IRNA]* 67
Indian Press 'Veracity' on Hindu-Muslim Clashes Questioned *[IRNA]* 67
* Various New Appointments Announced *[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 30 Dec]* 68
* KEYHAN-E HAVA'I Banned by UAE *[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 30 Dec]* 68

Nepal

Communist Party Holds Week-Long Conference *[AFP]* 68
    Seeks Strengthening of Democracy *[AFP]* 69

Pakistan

Major's Advice to India for Dialogue Welcomed *[Islamabad Radio]* 69
Spokesman Reiterates Stand on Nuclear Nonproliferation *[Islamabad TV]* 70
Canada Providing Safety Assistance for Nuclear Plant *[THE MUSLIM 27 Jan]* 70
Economic Ties With PRC, ECO Emphasized *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 24 Jan]* 70
China To Collaborate on Production of Aircraft *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Interior Minister Meets Afghan Deputy Minister *[Islamabad TVB]* 71
Prime Minister Leaves for Visit to Switzerland *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Opposition Urges Government Conciliation Measures *[AFP]* 71

Sri Lanka

LTTE Southeast Asia Headquarters Said Moved to Burma *[Colombo International]* 71
Two-Week Death Toll Set at 30 LTTE Fighters, 38 Soldiers *[Colombo International]* 72
LTTE Leader's Peace Talks With Churchmen Welcomed *[DAILY NEWS 16 Jan]* 72

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Impasse' Announced in Libya-West Dispute

NC2701205193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid announced today that efforts to reach a peaceful settlement between Libya and a number of Western states have reached an impasse. He noted that Libya has agreed to let the two accused Libyans stand trial, but refused to hand them over to Scotland. The United States and Britain, however, insisted that they must stand trial in Scotland.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Delegation Members React to Ruling

TA2801085993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Hanan 'Ashrawi, the spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, says she was not surprised by the High Court of Justice ruling because the Palestinians have never been treated fairly and that the only way to return the deportees will be by imposing sanctions on Israel.

Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, another member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, says the High Court's decision provides the Israeli Government with a way of returning to the peace process, provided they permit the deportees to submit their appeals inside Israeli territory. Abu-Zayyad claims the ruling must not be regarded in terms of who won and who lost. If the various parties can set their pride aside, all the parties will come out winners.

Palestinian Officials React to Israeli Court Ruling

'Ashrawi Comments on Ruling

JN2801122893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 28 Jan 93

[Interview with Palestinian Spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi, carried in the "With the Midday Events" program by Sa'id Mu'addi on 28 January—live or recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, good afternoon.

['Ashrawi] Good afternoon.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan, the High Court of Justice issued its ruling this morning concerning the deportees. What do you have to say about this ruling?

['Ashrawi] This ruling is evidence that the Israeli law is subject to political considerations and has no link with justice whatsoever. It proves that the Palestinian position that does not seek justice from the Israeli judiciary is correct, that the Security Council resolutions and international law should be adhered to, that Israel should be subjected to international law, and that the will of the international community should not be subjugated to internal Israeli considerations or Israeli judicial considerations.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan, of course there will be contacts and consultations regarding the results of the ruling on the next steps and the participation of the Palestinian side in the next round of talks, if it is held.

['Ashrawi] The reason which led to halting the negotiation process is still there—which is the mass expulsion of the Palestinians. Without the return of the deportees to their homes and homeland, the political and negotiation process will not continue. The political process was facing great difficulties and a dilemma before the deportation. We have been stressing the need to repatriate the deportees so that this process will continue. We have also been stressing the need to deal with the weak points in this process in order to neutralize them and place the process on the right track. This ruling does not open the way for resuming the negotiations, and it does not return the deportees to their homes. We still insist that Security Council Resolution 799 should be implemented, and that the Security Council should convene to adopt a resolution in accordance with Chapter 7 of the UN Charter.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan, let us move to another subject. A report published today said that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met early this month with Faysal al-Husayni. What is your comment on this?

['Ashrawi] Faysal al-Husayni has unequivocally denied these rumors. I talked with him, and again he totally denied the report. I want to stress that spreading rumors and erroneous reports causes public confusion and misunderstanding. This situation should be corrected, and everyone should be clearly informed that such meetings have not taken place.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian side, thank you.

'Abd-Rabbuh Reacts to Ruling

JN2801104293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the Information Department, said the Palestinians do not recognize the jurisdiction of the Israeli Supreme Court or its right to make decisions and adopt measures that concern any Palestinian in the occupied territories.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency today in response to the Israeli court ruling which supported the Israeli Government's decision to deport over 400 Palestinians, 'Abd-Rabbuh stressed that the only court that the Palestinians look to is the Security Council, which is based on the Geneva Convention.

He also stressed that within the coming days the PLO will seek a Security Council debate on this issue, emphasizing that the Council will seriously discuss the presented draft resolution on the imposition of sanctions against Israel and force it to respect legitimacy.

He added that it is unlikely that the veto will be used against such a resolution.

'Urgent' Arab Meeting Sought

NC2801141393 Paris AFP in English 1347 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Tunis, Jan 28 (AFP)—The PLO on Thursday [28 January] condemned an Israeli Supreme Court decision upholding the expulsion of some 400 Palestinians, and said it would seek an urgent U.N. Security Council meeting to press for sanctions against Israel.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation is making contacts to convene an "urgent" meeting of the United Nations Security Council to take "measures and sanctions" against Israel to make it take back the men, spokesman Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said.

He also told AFP the organisation planned to call for an urgent Arab meeting to coordinate Arab strategy at the Security Council.

'Abd-Rabbuh said the court's decision was illegal because it violated the Fourth Geneva Convention banning the expulsion of people from their country by the occupation forces.

"The only court which we recognize is the Security Council, international law and human rights which prohibit the expulsions of nationals from their homeland," said 'Abd-Rabbuh, who heads the PLO's information department.

The Security Council and the new U.S. administration are "now facing a real test," he added. [passage omitted]

PLO Member Views U.S. Position

NC2801114293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Beirut, 28 Jan (MENA)—The director of the PLO's office in Beirut, Shafiq al-Hut, has said the Israeli High Court ruling legalizing the Palestinians' deportation is disappointing and a challenge to the Security Council, its legitimate resolutions, and the international community.

He added: We expected the Israeli court's ruling to be different so as to extricate Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin from his deadlock. The ruling bore the hallmark of Israeli justice after it relied on the so-called emergency law, which was in force during the British occupation of Palestine and ended 45 years ago.

In a statement to MENA, al-Hut said that if the Palestinian people in the occupied territories are subject to the mandate of law according to the Israeli court's view, this law does not permit the deportation of citizens from their land. If the Palestinian people are subject to the Geneva Convention, it too prohibits the deportation of any citizen from his land. He said the ball is now in the Security Council's court and the council must assert its credibility in implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy without using double standards.

On the likelihood of the United States vetoing any draft resolution imposing sanctions against Israel, he said that for the first time, the new U.S. Administration under Bill Clinton will be defying the international community if it agrees to back Israel.

Al-Hut said that such a U.S. position will expose the peace process and cause the postponement of the bilateral talks, due to be held in Washington next month.

He said the United States' credibility is in jeopardy and the United States faces a difficult situation, especially as it gave most of the Arab capitals promises that it will find a suitable solution to repatriate the deportees to their land after backing Security Council Resolution 799. Even the U.S. secretary of state refused to conduct a tour of the Middle East before solving this problem, al-Hut noted.

Delegate Says End to Peace Process

TA2801100793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Furayh Abu-Middayn, chairman of the Gaza bar Association, has sharply criticized the High Court of Justice ruling on the deportees. Abu-Middayn claims that this is a dark hour for Israeli democracy and law because this was a political decision which has actually put an end to the peace process. Abu-Middayn, who is also a member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, says that he and his colleagues will be unable to continue with the talks because this would be tantamount to political suicide. This is reported by our correspondents Moti Amir and Nisim Qeynan.

PLO To Postpone Talks With Israeli Delegation

NC2701164993 Paris AFP in English 1547 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Jan 27 (AFP) - The PLO has postponed a meeting with an Israeli delegation until after a settlement of Israel's expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians, a delegate announced Wednesday [27 January].

Shlomo Elbaz said the meeting, due to take place Friday in Cairo, had been organized by international lawyer John Whitebeck.

But the session has been "postponed at the request of PLO officials in Tunis who first want a settlement to the problem of the 400 Palestinians" expelled to southern Lebanon on December 17, said Elbaz, an academic.

Israeli MPs, academics and local counselors were to take part in the meeting, following the repeal of an Israeli ban on contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

UN Report Welcomed; Casualty Data Presented

TA2701124293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Jan 93 p A3

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, yesterday announced that the Palestinians welcome the recommendation of UN Secretary General Butrus-Butrus Ghali to station a UN supervision apparatus in the territories. 'Abd-al-Shafi noted: "It is high time that the United Nations asserted its authority as an organization that is responsible for keeping peace, and I think it is quite good that such a recommendation by the secretary general came at this time. Proof of that should be an operation to return the deportees." According to him, if Israel refuses to allow the stationing of UN observers and the implementation of UN Security Resolution 799, the United Nations should impose sanctions on Israel.

'Abd-al-Shafi further stated that "the Palestinians absolutely reject the offer made by Attorney General Yosef Harish regarding meetings between the deportees and their attorneys at the Zummarayya crossing."

'Abd-al-Shafi made the remarks at a news conference held at the Jerusalem Communication Center, headed by Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, a member of the Palestinian delegation on behalf of the Palestinian People's Party. The news conference was also attended by Attorney Naji Surani, director of the Gaza Center for Human Rights and Law.

At the news conference, the Palestinian notables presented figures regarding the killing of children and the destruction of houses with missiles by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. They claimed that this is "a policy directed by the Rabin government, which appears to be worst than the Shamir government concerning the observation of human rights in the territories." The speakers compared two periods: the Rabin government's term from 24 July 1992 to 24 January 1993 and the Shamir government's term from 24 July 1991 to 24 January 1992.

According to the data they presented, during the Rabin term, 88 Palestinians were killed, including 25 children under 16; during the Shamir period, only six of the 53 fatalities were children. They noted that most of the children have been killed in Gaza, where frequent and serious riots have been taking place over the past several months.

The Palestinian notables claimed that since the Rabin government has come to power, there has been a deterioration in several fields: There was a rise in the number of people killed by the IDF in the territories, following the change in the regulations on opening fire, and because the IDF has also introduced a new initiative of snipers shooting at demonstrators, many children have been shot. Prolonged curfews and closures have been imposed, mainly on the Gaza Strip; the number of administrative detainees has gone up from 160 by the end of November to 590 today; a resolution was made and implemented to carry out a deportation the scope of which has not been witnessed in the territories since the early 1970's; and a new policy has been implemented to destroy houses with antitank missiles.

According to Attorney Surani, during the Rabin government's term, the IDF carried out 16 military operations in the Gaza Strip alone, in which 56 houses have been damaged and destroyed. According to him, this is a "new form of collective punishment."

"Israel is being irresponsible, and is harming and endangering the peace process," 'Abd-al-Shafi said.

Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib noted that during the negotiations in Washington, the Israeli delegation exploited the pressure imposed on the Palestinian population in the territories to try squeezing the Palestinian delegation into making concessions such as stopping the intifadah. Dr. al-Khatib demanded that Israel respect the fourth Geneva Convention, and stop shooting to kill.

In response to the allegations, the IDF spokesman has said that the investigations of the incidents in which children were killed indicate that in most cases the children had taken part in the riots, or were in the vicinity of a raging crowd, and were killed by mistake. As for the firing of missiles at houses, the IDF spokesman said that "the IDF forces take action to capture armed fugitives, who take refuge with some of the population, only after it has early information." He noted that the armed fugitives found in the houses are given the opportunity to surrender. The spokesman noted that over the last six months, three security forces personnel have been killed when such houses were stormed, and that the use of alternative means to capture fugitives hiding in the houses was aimed at reducing the threat to the lives of the IDF soldiers. He added that in many cases in which the property of innocent people is damaged, they are being compensated by the Civil Administration.

Qaddumi on Deportees, Ties With U.S., Talks

NC2701152493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Tunis, 27 Jan (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has stated that the Israeli Knesset's decision to repeal the law banning meetings between Israelis and the PLO is merely an act of deception aimed at improving the image of Israel, which has deported over 400 Palestinians. He added that if Israel really wants peace, it must deal directly with the PLO.

In an exclusive statement to MENA in Tunis, Qaddumi said Israel carries out procedural acts that do not affect the real situation and cheats and deceives to improve its image. He added: It is, regrettably, getting backing and encouragement from Europe and the United States. If Israel really desires peace, it must accept the need to withdraw from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories. The question is not one of laws or rules or dealing or not dealing with the PLO.

Qaddumi said the Palestinians cannot participate in the peace negotiations without the deportees' return to their homeland and without a change in Israeli behavior. He said there is a natural link between the deportees' return and participation in the next round of the peace negotiations, adding: We should not separate the two issues. He said Israel's decision to deport the Palestinians from their homeland means it does not want to achieve a just peace or take a step forward in the peace negotiations.

Qaddumi said it is not easy for the other Arab delegations to the peace talks to go to the ninth round without a solution to the deportees' issue, because this is a central issue for everyone. He said there are constant consultations among these delegations to take the appropriate position on the peace negotiations and that a meeting for the cordon states' and Egypt's foreign ministers will be held in an Arab capital before the date of the next round of negotiations is set. He added: There is no inkling of a specific date for this meeting.

On the possibility of resuming the peace negotiations in February, Qaddumi said there is no sign of this, adding that a climate must be created to help to invite the negotiators to hold another round of talks.

Qaddumi expressed hope that the return of 17 deportees to the occupied territories marks the start of the return of all the deportees. He said: We cannot judge until all the deportees have returned.

On contacts between the PLO and the new U.S. Administration, Qaddumi said: We have contacts with this Administration through various channels and through our friends and Arab brothers. This Administration needs time to get to know the details of this process and to appoint those in charge of managing it. The United States is the superpower and principal sponsor of the peace process and indirect contacts with it are still in their early stages.

He expressed hope that new Secretary of State Warren Christopher would get acquainted with the details of the past rounds of peace negotiations and with the Israeli stand—which has brought the negotiations to a dead end—through the scheduled meeting with the Palestinian negotiating team.

Qaddumi noted that the resumption of the dialogue between the United States and the PLO depends on the former. He added: We must not link the Israeli and U.S. positions, because if such a link exists, this will mean that the United States is still biased towards Israel and is influenced by its decisions.

He remarked that the recent Knesset decision [legalizing contacts with the PLO] does not mean anything and must not be viewed as a change in Israel's position. He explained that it merely is a domestic Israeli process that has no bearing on the facts abroad and which the Knesset carried out only when Rabin's government came under pressure from its coalition partners and others.

Concerning ongoing efforts to normalize relations between the PLO and the Gulf countries, Qaddumi said: We are doing our utmost to restore inter-Arab solidarity and embark on collective Arab action. There is no problem between us and the Gulf countries. We adopted a principled stand to which we continue to adhere. We must not be blamed for the stand we adopted although some Arab brothers misinterpreted it. We continue to support Arab solutions to inter- Arab conflicts. We continue to emphasize this.

Qaddumi declared: We are willing to end disagreements and accept the new facts. It is necessary to restore inter-Arab relations to their former status because the improvement of these relations will have a major and positive effect on the Palestinian cause.

Qaddumi voiced hope that Arab tensions and disagreements will disappear and that all Arabs will view the Arab League as their collective home. He said the Arab League must become the effective instrument to remedy all Arab issues and problems.

Commenting on [Israeli Prime Minister] Yitzhaq Rabin's invitation to Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi [leader of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks] and Faysal al-Husayni [head of the Palestinian Advisory Committee] to meet with him, Faruq Qaddumi said: We never can agree to such a meeting. Negotiations are under way and formal meetings are held during the peace talks. Such a meeting never can be held in the occupied territories because it would mean acknowledging the occupation. The negotiations must take place at any mutually accepted venue outside the occupied territories.

Asked if there are disagreements within Palestinian ranks, Qaddumi replied that there are differing views concerning certain issues, but this is a healthy sign that demonstrates the democratic practices of Palestinian political life. He pointed out that all Palestinians are fighting and resisting the Israeli occupation regardless of any divergence of views. Qaddumi announced: We are seeking to achieve coordination and total agreement among all Palestinian factions, particularly Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Qaddumi added: We have succeeded in developing our relations with Hamas and will hold an extensive dialogue with it in Tunis as we did in Khartoum. We must not hide the fact that there is a divergence in political views between the PLO and Hamas, but we all are fighting against Israel and continuing our struggle in the context of the intifadah. We all have reached agreement to continue this policy.

On Europe's attitude towards the peace process, Qaddumi remarked that Europe never will play a positive role in this connection unless Arab force is brought to bear to make it do so and if it senses that its interests are being threatened. He added that Europe and the United States must know that in order to have political stability in the Middle East, where their interests lie, the Arab-Israeli conflict must be resolved. He explained that the starting point in such a solution is the Palestinian issue, which only can be resolved by talking with the PLO, no matter how long this takes.

Commenting on reports about a disagreement between Syria and the PLO on the peace negotiations, Qaddumi asserted that there is no disagreement. On the contrary, relations between Syria and the PLO have entered a new historic stage based on cooperation and coordination in spite of certain political differences, he said, adding that the PLO is very eager to maintain fraternal relations with Syria to make progress in the peace process.

Qaddumi affirmed that Syria will not sign a unilateral agreement with Israel. I believe beyond any doubt and without hesitation that Syria cannot proceed toward signing a unilateral agreement with Israel, judging by its history and by the orientation of its party, leadership, and revolution, he said. He pointed out that the Israelis are trying to deceive them into believing that they already have reached an agreement with Syria. Reading the Syrian working paper carefully, I did not find any part that conflicts with the general Arab stand, he asserted.

Faruq Qaddumi added that Israel is trying to divide Arab ranks by pretending that it has made progress along one track—the Jordanian, the Syrian, or the Palestinian. He remarked that Israel is offended by the full coordination existing among the Arab side to the talks.

Touching on reports about expected Palestinian-Israeli meetings in Cairo, Qaddumi expressed his belief that these meetings will be futile. He said this is Israel's way of maneuvering around the peace process without offering any [word indistinct].

If there is an urgent need for these meetings and if Israeli officials sincerely wish to meet with Palestinian officials, the PLO should be recognized as a basic negotiator and this recognition should be (?declared), he said. He explained that he does not object to the meetings as such, but rather to the level at which they would be held.

Asked about 'Arafat's efforts to resolve the Egyptian-Sudanese dispute, Faruq Qaddumi said 'Arafat is making ceaseless efforts in this context and that the brothers in Sudan and Egypt are responsive.

Qaddumi asserted that the links between Egypt and Sudan are not only fundamental and pan-Arab ties, but also (?blood ties). He expressed the belief that the problems between the two sides soon will be resolved, because both are eager to restore normalcy and consolidate Egyptian-Sudanese cohesion.

UN Envoy Rules Out 'Compromise' on Deportees

NC2801093593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Nasir al-Qudwah, Palestinian ambassador to the United Nations, in New York, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, in the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Welcome to our program.

[Al-Qudwah] Thanks, dear brother.

[Al-Jundi] Ambassador, let us begin our discussion with a general review of the UN Security Council reaction to the recommendation of UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali concerning the deportees.

[Al-Qudwah] As you know, Dr. Butrus-Ghali presented a full report to the UN Security Council yesterday. The report was valuable in its content and approach. Based on that report, we have begun consultations that aim to persuade the UN Security Council to issue a new resolution based on Chapter Seven of the UN Charter and that call for specific sanctions against Israel. We have held numerous contacts, chief among which was a meeting of the Arab group [of delegates] to the United Nations. We hope these efforts will lead to a unified Arab action, because we need to ensure Arab, not just Palestinian, support for the draft resolution.

[Al-Jundi] Ambassador, you refer to an Arab draft resolution. Could you tell us more about that resolution? Some observers have pointed out that the United States may oppose sanctions against Israel if it fails to implement Resolution 799.

[Al-Qudwah] We believe that international circumstances are different from what they were. We must remember that there has been no veto in the UN Security Council for over two and a half years. We believe that the United States should allow the UN Security Council to meet its legal obligations under the UN Charter and under Resolution 799, which the UN Security Council passed with U.S. approval. We hope the UN Security Council will meet its obligations. If, God forbid, it fails to do so, the Council's credibility will be greatly undermined and so will its ability to deal with issues evenhandedly.

[Al-Jundi] Some observers speak of a compromise solution and of U.S. consultations with Israel to find a compromise solution to avoid the use of sanctions while not embarrassing Clinton's administration in front of fellow members of the UN Security Council and the United Nations. How do you see a compromise solution?

[Al-Qudwah] We believe that the language in which Resolution 799 was drafted is clear and does not allow for compromise solutions. We believe that Israel should implement the resolution in full and ensure the prompt and peaceful return of all the deportees.

[Al-Jundi] Ambassador, Egypt is holding consultations on this. Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, is currently in New York. And Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's permanent ambassador to the United Nations, has made contacts. As a Palestinian official with extensive knowledge of such consultations, what has been achieved?

[Al-Qudwah] There is no doubt that Egyptian diplomacy, as usual, is active. What you said about consultations by al-Baz and al-'Arabi is true. I would also like to refer to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's recent visit to Israel, the aim of which was to implement the UN Security Council resolution and to find a speedy solution to the deportees problem. Unfortunately, the Israeli position remains one of ignoring international law. The Israelis have ignored all these efforts and their position remains negative. So the only option for us all is to take further steps. We hope the UN Security Council will pass a new resolution based on Chapter Seven of the UN Charter.

[Al-Jundi] Ambassador, do you think the recent Knesset decision, legalizing contacts between Israelis and PLO members, has slightly diverted attention from the issue of the deportees and the need to force Israel to implement the resolution calling for them to go home?

[Al-Qudwah] I don't think so. These are two separate issues. I believe that Israel's Knesset decision on lifting the ban is a positive but modest step. It should be followed by other big steps. But we cannot expect positive political decisions to be forthcoming unless Israel shows commitment to international law and UN Security Council resolutions. This emphasizes the need to implement Resolution 799 and resolve the deportees' issue.

[Al-Jundi] Ambassador, do you think the implementation of Resolution 799 will be a preliminary step to forcing Israel to implement international resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict, chiefly Resolutions 242 and 338?

[Al-Qudwah] There is no doubt about that. This is one of the reasons we insist on this. We cannot imagine that Israel, while refusing to implement a resolution with such limited scope as 799, will be willing, in principle, to implement resolutions that are more comprehensive and general, such as Resolution 242. Nor can we imagine that the United States can enforce Resolution 242, when it is reluctant to enforce Resolution 799.

[Al-Jundi] Ambassador, are there any contacts under way between you and the new U.S. Administration on this?

[Al-Qudwah] Unfortunately, and as you may know, there is no direct contact in the United Nations between us and the United States, but there are several indirect channels. Again, there is no doubt that Egyptian diplomacy plays an important part in this.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you for talking to us.

[Al-Qudwah] You are welcome, dear brother. My regards to your audience.

Egypt

Mubarak Views Gulf, Mideast Peace Process

AU2701143693 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 25 Jan 93 pp 128-131

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Romain Leick and Volkhard Windfuhr in Cairo; date not given: "Saddam Should Go"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Mr. President, two years after the allied war against Saddam Husayn, the Western powers have again attacked Iraq to force the country to adhere to the UN resolutions. Was the Gulf war in vain?

[Mubarak] I regret that things have developed this way. The war and the sanctions that the Security Council imposed on Iraq could have been avoided if Saddam had shown more flexibility.

[DER SPIEGEL] Despite his humiliating defeat, Saddam continues his provocations and playing with fire. Is he uncontrollable?

[Mubarak] Iraq is ruined. The Army is totally exhausted, and the people live in misery. Nonetheless, the Iraqi dictator plunges into senseless adventures. We regret that his irresponsible approach has once again led to the use of force. [Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic on 25 Jan on page 3 published the text of this interview and omitted the following question and answer]

[DER SPIEGEL] What did the war solve? The recent air raids have had little effect.

[Mubarak] Neither I nor any other Arab head of state can understand this man. Iraq is a rich country. God gave it oil and fertile land. The 14 million Iraqis could live extremely well and could, in addition, even feed their neighbors. If I had such reserves, my 55 million Egyptians would be excellently well off. But what is Saddam doing? Driven by a pathological thirst for power, he invests all wealth in missiles—only to be able to appear as a great leader.

[DER SPIEGEL] After all the attacks, he is still not ready to recognize Kuwait's right of existence.

[Mubarak] This is indeed unbelievable. Four days prior to the latest allied operation, a spokesman for Saddam said that Kuwait continues to form part of Iraq as its 19th province. The muzzled Iraqi people have to suffer from the tensions that are created by such arrogant behavior.

[DER SPIEGEL] Unlike Bush, Saddam is still in power. Will Iraq remain a threat so long as the dictator is not overthrown?

[Mubarak] If he really cared about his people's well-being he would have to cede power. But he wants to create the impression that he is a second al-Nasir. What grotesque arrogance. Al-Nasir fought for the peoples' liberation from the colonial yoke. Saddam Husayn, on the other hand, occupies and annexes a fraternal country. Following Egypt's defeat against Israel in 1967, al-Nasir offered to resign, whereas Saddam continues to make his people suffer.

[DER SPIEGEL] The U.S. attacks have rather consolidated his position.

[Mubarak] After the chain of catastrophes that have befallen the country, he should go, so that the Iraqis can live again and the world reestablish contacts with them. Even his closest friend, King Husayn of Jordan, has publicly said that the regime in Baghdad must be replaced.

[DER SPIEGEL] That may take a long time. For how long can Iraq still be isolated politically and economically?

[Mubarak] The boycott will be maintained as long as this regime rules in Baghdad. The Iraqi people must decide on Saddam.

[DER SPIEGEL] Why are the Arabs unable themselves to guarantee security in the region and contain cauldrons of conflict?

[Mubarak] The Arabs are at variance; so how should they be able to defend themselves? It is true they signed a common defense agreement. But we have not seen many common interests. If all Arab states had closed ranks against Saddam in the Gulf crisis, he would have had no alternative but yield to their united determination and agree to a peaceful compromise.

[DER SPIEGEL] The Gulf war has shown that the old dream of pan-Arabism, the dream of the Arab world as a homogeneous political bloc, has collapsed. Does Arab nationalism still have a future?

[Mubarak] As early as in the fifties, our countries concluded an agreement on economic and defense cooperation. The basic idea was to create a sound economic system as the foundation of a credible defense readiness. That was, however, not taken seriously. Arab unity is nothing to write home about.

[DER SPIEGEL] But can a unified Arab state continue to be a long-term goal of Arab policymakers?

[Mubarak] We should not deceive ourselves any longer. The unequal Arab neighbors will never set up a unified Arab state. We are dealing with extremely rich and extremely poor countries in the Arab world. How should Egypt and Somalia fit together, for instance? When and if two Arab states succeed in merging, other countries create discord and problems.

[DER SPIEGEL] For centuries the Arab world was the plaything and sphere of influence of rivaling foreign powers. That seems to have ended with the end of the cold war at the latest. The United States and Russia cannot be played off against each other any more. Do the Arab states have to redefine their position?

[Mubarak] We are facing a new world chaos, a new world disorder. The Soviet Union has disintegrated, nationality conflicts have broken out, nothing is under control in Yugoslavia—that is European fundamentalism. In our region we are dealing with famine and anarchy in Somalia, with the Islamic Front in Sudan, and with Iran—we all live in huge disorder.

[DER SPIEGEL] How could order be restored?

[Mubarak] The seesaw policy between the United States and the Soviet Union has ended. Today there is only one world power with which we have to live, without jeopardizing our dignity and independence.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does this mean subordination under United States' leadership?

[Mubarak] It means that we in our region must observe the new rules. Not everyone has been able to do so. Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states have cultivated good relations with America and Europe; Syria's alert president, Hafiz al-Asad, also knows what to do. Whether other regimes will learn and catch up, I do not know.

[DER SPIEGEL] In what way will this influence the peace negotiations with Israel? Isn't the Arab side too confident that Washington will bring pressure to bear on the government in Jerusalem?

[Mubarak] The United States cannot bring as much pressure to bear on Israel as some Arabs would like to see. Israel has often resisted U.S. pressure; the Israeli lobby in the United States and in all European countries is very active. The solution lies in dialogue.

[DER SPIEGEL] The negotiations have lasted since the end of October and have not been very successful. Are you expecting a breakthrough before the end of this year?

[Mubarak] I have a lot of hope, even though time and again we are confronted with difficulties; currently we are dealing with the problem of the Palestinians who were deported from their home country. Neither the Arabs nor Israel should take steps that will cause the peace process to stand still. In this respect, a high degree of flexibility is required because there are forces that do not want us to conclude a peace agreement.

[DER SPIEGEL] Both sides show, however, a tendency towards doggedness. For instance, is Syria ready to follow the Egyptian example and exchange land for peace?

[Mubarak] The principle of land for peace is settled. Syria accepts it. Of course the Syrians are still suspicious and want to know Israel's real intentions. I believe, however, that al-Asad wants peace. The negotiations will take a long time yet, but in the end, the principle of land for peace will be accepted by all sides involved.

[DER SPIEGEL] The Palestinian problem is most complicated. What would be a realistic solution?

[Mubarak] The Palestinians must get their territory—the occupied territories. That is what they have in mind. It should begin with autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. But you cannot tell the Palestinians that they will get this piece of land, and Israel will get that piece of land. That would not be a realistic approach. Once peace is restored, all neighbors will work together—Egyptians, Jordanians, Palestinians, and Israelis.

[DER SPIEGEL] Moderate Palestinians are losing influence in the occupied territories. Isn't the peace process threatening to fail because of rivalry between the PLO and the radical Hamas Islamic resistance movement?

[Mubarak] Hamas consists of and is backed by Palestinians who suffer from the occupation, above all in Gaza and certain areas of the West Bank. But I am sure that as soon as peace is imminent, Hamas will be deprived of the basis for any terrorist acts.

[DER SPIEGEL] The radicalism of Hamas is currently also forcing the PLO to adopt a tougher stance. Since the beginning of the peace process, a large variety of political forces have been formed in the occupied territories. In view of this fact, can 'Arafat maintain his claim of sole representation?

[Mubarak] We continue to consider the PLO the only representative of the Palestinian people. That was decided at an Arab summit conference, and we have to keep to it. The PLO is trying very flexibly to find a solution to the conflict. It has remained popular—despite Hamas.

[DER SPIEGEL] The example of Hamas shows, however, what a challenge the growth of violent fundamentalism is. How is the Islamic world going to cope with it?

[Mubarak] The groups you are talking about are not Islamists, they are fanatics. Terrorists who cite Allah pervert Islam; many of them are corrupt. The wirepullers give students and schoolchildren 100 pounds to throw bombs here and there. That has nothing to do with Islam. Like Christianity and Judaism, our religion is based on tolerance and charity. Extremism is a temporary phenomenon.

[DER SPIEGEL] Nonetheless, fundamentalism has a threatening effect. Where do you see the main reasons?

[Mubarak] There is extremism everywhere in the world, in Europe it is ethnic extremism. In our region hostile Arab states hire violent gangs for revenge operations. Another reason is that President al-Sadat promoted the forming of Islamic associations in Egypt with the goal of fighting communism, even though there was no communist danger. These associations spread and created the mess with which we are dealing today.

[DER SPIEGEL] Does this not also show that Arab leaders have failed because they were dreaming about power and glory, instead of working for their peoples' well-being?

[Mubarak] I do not deny the fact that there have been such politicians. In addition, they also miscalculated the political situation. Former Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid told me at one time that he would give all parties, including the religious parties, complete leeway because this would strengthen his government. It did not work.

[DER SPIEGEL] Repression does not stop religious militancy. Wouldn't democracy be a better deterrent?

[Mubarak] Yes, democracy and openness are our sharpest weapons. We always tell our people the whole truth.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do the Islamic extremists also enjoy freedom of opinion?

[Mubarak] The Islamic politicians only want power. Once they are in power, the democratic liberties are forgotten. If we tolerated an Islamic party, a Christian party would be founded soon after. Religion would be misused, and Muslims and Christians would fight each other. That is why we do not permit religious parties in Egypt.

[DER SPIEGEL] Islamic terrorists have made Egypt's main source of income, tourism, a target of their attacks. Is your country's security seriously threatened?

[Mubarak] There is no danger looming for our state. The small number of really terrorist elements do not have the smallest backing among the people. It even happens that the faithful drive preachers who spread too extreme views out of the mosque.

[DER SPIEGEL] However, your interior minister has called in thousands of policemen. You accused your neighbor Sudan and Iran of wirepulling terrorism. Isn't the problem also home-made?

[Mubarak] Money and disinformation are the main causes. Iranians and Sudanese give assistance. We have reason to believe that weapons are smuggled from Sudan to Egypt via the border town of Hala'ib on the Red Sea. [Cairo AL-AHRAM adds the following sentence: "As to the thousands of troops which you say were employed in the Imbabah operation, this is greatly exaggerated."]

[DER SPIEGEL] Could an Algerian situation develop on the Nile?

[Mubarak] I do not think that would be possible. If the Algerians had kept to their Constitution, which prohibits the forming of religious parties, developments would have been different. [Cairo AL-AHRAM adds the following sentence: "Recent elections to choose the members of the People's Assembly [as published] and local popular councils have demonstrated these people's true strength and ability."]

[DER SPIEGEL] In the West, Islam is often considered a new threat following the collapse of communism. Do you see a new crusader's mood emerging between the Orient and the West?

[Mubarak] No. In Europe the situation has occasionally been misjudged. Distorted press reports cannot be a basis for an analysis of such consequence. Islam will never constitute a threat to the West. [Cairo AL-AHRAM adds the following sentence: "It is a religion of tolerance and peace and has never been a religion of violence, oppression, or terrorism."]

[DER SPIEGEL] Mr. President, we thank you for this interview.

Opposition Criticizes U.S. Handling of Iraq

NC2701195993 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 25 Jan 93 pp 1, 3

["The Opinion of the Opposition" column by Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad: "The Attack Against Iraq: The American Arrogance"]

[Text] The U.S. Administration's recent practices against Iraq have irritated the Arab and Islamic public. The U.S. Administration has maliciously utilized the Security Council resolution on Iraq's missiles in the no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq, claiming that the missiles threaten U.S. flights over the two regions. But a close examination of events shows beyond doubt that the issue is not one of missiles, but an endeavor to launch air and missile attacks against Iraq—in the north and south—to destroy both its defensive and industrial capabilities. The following points support this argument:

1. Baghdad is not included in the no-fly zones.

2. Al-Rashid Hotel is not a missile-launching battery. It lodges a large number of civilians, including Western correspondents. Does the U.S. Administration really think that the hotel threatens U.S. planes?

3. The U.S. Administration attacked one of the major factories in Baghdad, claiming it was a facility for producing mass-destruction weapons!

In short, by launching these repeated attacks, the United States, whether under the Bush or Clinton administrations, is implementing a major military scheme. The first part has begun, and the second will follow, especially now that U.S. ground exercises have started. In addition, the scope of the raids has expanded greatly, virtually paving the way for a new ground invasion, it would seem.

At the end of this article, we would like to advise the U.S. Administration to handle Iraq's case calmly and realistically; otherwise, the result will be much worse than Washington expects, especially since Arab and public opinion is against the United States for both its intransigence toward Iraq and its failure to implement the Security Council resolutions relevant to Palestine and Bosnia-Hercegovina. Is this the logic of international law, which the United States claims to respect? Is this the logic of human rights, which the United States claims to defend?

Arab Action on 'Every Level' Urged About Deportees

NC2801074393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 28 Jan 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-AKHBAR says: Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres (?was angered) because UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, exercising his duty as the top UN official, called on the UN Security Council to take all the necessary measures to force Israel to implement the Council's resolution calling for the return of hundreds of Palestinians deported by Israel unjustly and without legal or logical justification. UN emissaries sent by Dr. Butrus-Ghali failed to persuade Rabin's government to comply with the UN Security Council resolution on this.

International observers, AL-AKHBAR adds, believe that failure to implement the UN Security Council resolution on the deportees will have grave consequences.

In an editorial on the same topic, AL-AHRAM says that the Israeli Government should resolve the deportees' issue. The Israeli Government should allow all the deportees to go home—through a decision of its own or a ruling by the Supreme Court.

If it wants to defuse the tension and have the peace talks resume in a calm atmosphere, the Israeli Government should implement UN Security Council Resolution 799 calling for the return of the deportees. Otherwise, there will be a need for intensive Arab action on every level based on Chapter Seven of the UN Charter [sanctioning the use of force to implement UN resolutions]. This is a grave issue and Arab countries should call for such action to confront Israel's rejection of the UN Security Council's resolution.

Writers Analyse Iraq Strike, Results

NC2701103093

[Editorial Report] Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic on 18 January publishes a number of articles analyzing the recent military strike against Iraq, its apparent and hidden causes, and the results it achieved.

In a 1,500-word article entitled "Clinton's Terms for Saddam's Stay: Normalizing Relations Between Baghdad and Washington With Strikes," on pages 7-9, Muhammad Hasan al-Alfi analyses the "swift 15-minute, surgical strike by 110 American, British, French, and other planes against missile bases, airports, and control and communication systems in southern Iraq." He contends that contrary to President Bush's and UK Prime Minister Major's assertions, this strike is "far more than just a disciplinary message to Saddam." He believes that the raid is a "prologue for normalizing the dialogue that started last Wednesday with Smart missiles, laser-guided missiles, and Stealth-117 aircraft."

Al-Alfi insists that this dialogue is "coming," despite Clinton's denial of THE NEW YORK TIMES' conclusion that the President-elect is willing to establish relations with Saddam if he complies with UN resolutions.

After citing remarks by Clinton on his willingness to turn a new page with Saddam, who, he says, Clinton does not view as an eternal rival to America, the writer says that these remarks confirm analysts' fears that: "The problems Saddam fabricated were messages meant for Clinton rather than sent to an address from which the current tenant will leave in three days." According to the writer, these acts "are certainly the start of a dialogue through which Saddam's Iraq reinstates itself as part of the regional security equation in the Gulf," in light of "Iran's declared activity in supporting extremist groups against established democracies and its rigorous attempts to attract the newborn political systems in the Islamic republics that have finally gained freedom after the collapse of the Soviet Union."

The writer notes that the Iraqi leadership knows of certain Gulf states' inclination to "maintain a weak Saddam as leader of a united Iraq, rather than have a fragmented Iraq with three federal states as adversaries." He claims: "Iraq's fragmentation will not spare the stable neighboring Arab regimes."

After reviewing the planning and execution of the military strike, al-Alfi says Saddam knew what to do in advance, because he experienced a similar situation during his war with the allies. Accordingly, the writer adds: "Saddam immediately applied his traditional strategy of staging sudden death by hiding targets as far as possible and by not responding so as to avoid the attackers' wrath." He also prepared, the writer says, "with a traditional address he inherited from the scandal of the mother of battles, urging Iraqi pilots to stand fast against the invading forces immediately after the raid was over."

Al-Alfi agrees with one American analyst, who concluded that the air raid against Iraq sent the wrong message, telling the Iraqis: "American interest is very limited and does not include a desire to overthrow Saddam."

Al-Alfi welcomes a statement by the U.S. secretary of state in which he stressed the need to resolve the deportees issue—even with their return to Israeli jails—or subject Israel to certain UN measures.

He remarks: "Polite pressure is very useful in the climate of comparison triggered by the air strike." He concludes, however: "Dialogue will continue between Saddam and the West, in general, and the White House, in particular" and "More crises and more strikes are required to achieve full amiability between the two sides."

Al-Alfi concludes: "Saddam knows his role and what he will do and will not hesitate to light another flare."

A 500-word article on pages 10-11 by ROSE AL-YUSUF's military expert Major General Dr. Zakariya Husayn asserts: "The limited U.S. air strike against Iraq occurred amid a general atmosphere of concern, anger, and frustration with the two-sided international legitimacy," because it is "unacceptable at the Arab and international levels to make compliance to legitimacy and UN resolutions exclusive to Iraq, while Israel ignores resolutions and continues to defy legitimacy with its declared, categorical, and final rejection of Resolution 799" on returning the Palestinian deportees to their homes.

Husayn says the infiltration of the neutral zone by Iraqi individuals in civilian clothes "did not deserve all that resolute response by the United States and its associates." He deduces that Saddam Husayn "this time dragged U.S. President George Bush—one week before leaving the White House—and his British and French allies into deciding to use force at a politically unfavorable time."

The author remarks that the strike triggered different Arab reactions that for the first time tend to express "dissatisfaction with and discomfort at the credibility of the concept of international legitimacy under the U.S. leadership of the so-called new world order."

'Asim Hanafi writes a 500-word article on page 11 entitled "Bush's Lesson," in which he says: "Bush indirectly wanted to teach us a lesson in calculation, politics, and logic when he decided to walk off the political stage in a dramatic and propagandist manner." By launching his recent offensive against already wounded Iraq, Bush proved to us that he suffers from "blindness and squinted political vision," Hanafi says.

The author adds that despite differences with Iraq, despite excesses and mistakes, and although relations are as good as ever with "Uncle Sam," the development made us discover: "Iraq is still in our hearts and minds, is closer to us than the American friend, that any harm to it makes our heart bleed, and that Iraq's dignity is the same as ours."

He claims the strike proved: "Uncle Sam has not changed," adding: "It started with Iraq yesterday, will turn to Libya tomorrow, and then turn against us after that."

Israel remains in "'Uncle Sam's'" thoughts, his conscience, and at the core of his interests," Hanafi believes. He concludes: "The American strike exposed the myth of the new world order and so-called international legitimacy, when the UN Security Council members, in their pajamas and slippers, rushed at dawn to adopt an urgent decision to strike Iraq while surrendering themselves to a deadly sleep over Israel's excesses and blatant and shameless defiance of the international community."

Mubarak Meets Writers, Views Current Issues

NC2601183593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA)—[passage omitted] President Mubarak met writers and intellectuals at the end of his tour of the 25th International Book Fair today and affirmed his constant eagerness to meet with the writers, thinkers, and intellectuals on all cultural occasions. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak told those with whom he met that no secret or any important matter is kept from Egypt's intellectuals and writers.

Dr. Muhammad Nur Farhat asked Mubarak about human rights and the possibility of establishing an Egyptian center or advisory council to keep abreast of the issue, respond to reports by international human rights organizations, and make recommendations to protect and strengthen human rights in Egypt. He also asked about the development of university education. President Mubarak answered: "There is indeed a proposal to establish a nongovernmental council or center to deal with human rights."

President Mubarak said that human rights in Egypt are safeguarded and respected. We also respect the supremacy of law, which is part of the respect of human rights, he noted, adding: Any violation of human rights in Egypt should be dealt with by the courts. Mubarak noted the Chinese president's remark that the issue of human rights has occasionally become a game by some to justify interfering in the internal affairs of other states.

President Mubarak said: We want the international organizations to investigate human rights in their countries before they come to investigate in Arab countries or in Third World countries. We seek true justice in dealing with human rights, both with regard to the rights of deportees and the rights of those who face oppression in their countries, he continued.

Mubarak said that human rights, freedom of expression, and the right to trial are safeguarded in Egypt. He praised the idea of establishing an advisory council and asked the person who posed the question to submit a working paper on his ideas. [passage omitted]

Mubarak said that he is not prepared to approve the establishment of a religious party, adding that he respects the law. He noted that the establishment of a religious party in Algeria, in violation of the Constitution, put the country in an awkward position that almost caused a catastrophe. He said he hopes Algeria will emerge intact from this difficult time.

Mubarak said: I appeal to the national conscience; I am not driven by a personal interest; I put the national and popular interests above everything else. He noted that regardless of its various names, extremism always seeks to control authority. I refuse dialogue with armed sides because this is not a dialogue, he said. Mubarak said the security forces perform their duty to safeguard the citizens and homeland's security when they resist any infringement on legitimacy. He added that the type of criminal acts imported from abroad are as far as ever from Islam.

The president stressed that what is happening in Egypt is not comparable with terrorist and extremist acts in other parts of the world. Mubarak discussed freedom of the press in Egypt, where "no newspaper or correspondent is censored," saying that the media present Egypt as the only country in the world that experiences these types of criminal acts. The fact is, however, that the entire world experiences these types of crimes, he said, adding: This is the price of the freedom and democracy we enjoy. Liberties will not be touched; there will be more democracy, more adherence to the law, and more respect for the judiciary's rulings, he stressed.

Safwat al-Sharif added that Mubarak also discussed Libyan revolution leader Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Egypt. The president believes that the peoples' cohesion guides their firm steps on the road to unity and said that al-Qadhdhafi fully understands this point and realizes that unity comes through the integration of interests, that pan-Arab unity has its shortcomings, and that we should learn from history. [passage omitted]

Mubarak commented on the need for a comprehensive solution to all economic and social issues, some of which—terrorism, education, corruption, etc.—are intertwined and discussed whether a national conference should be called to remedy these issues. At the beginning of my term, Mubarak said, I convened an economic conference because the economic problem is a multifaceted and multilateral issue with various social and cultural dimensions. The situation may be somewhat different when it comes to international issues, such as the Libyan issue, Sudan, Somalia, or Algeria, with which Egypt has nothing to do. He added: Amid these problems, Egypt finds itself like a ship in a stormy sea. We have to pilot this ship to avoid the waves and pass through this delicate stage we are experiencing.

Mubarak added that progress has been made since the economic conference on domestic problems, adding: We want to reach a safe limit in our economic issues through reforms. He stressed that reaching this point will reflect positively on all matters. President Mubarak added: A general national conference may not be needed, but specialized conferences could be held to discuss various issues. He added: However, the matter is open to discussion.

Asked if some issues are related to corruption, President Mubarak stressed that there is no cover-up of any kind of corruption whatsoever, and the state is very clear in this position.

Asked to play a role in reconciling Iraq and Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, like he did with Qatar and Saudi Arabia, the president said there is no room for comparison in the two cases, adding: Iraqi-Arab reconciliation is an inter-Arab reconciliation that needs to be tackled from various sides and by various parties. Mubarak referred to Iraq's position against Egypt following its signing of a peace treaty with Israel, adding that the dispute lasted for approximately 10 years. He said that Iraq was leading this anti-Egypt position although Egypt did not occupy any land, displace any people, or threaten any country. The current situation, he added, concerns Iraq's occupation of an Arab country and the firing of missiles against another Arab country.

President Mubarak explained the facts about his meeting with Saddam at the beginning of the Gulf crisis, his advice to him, his endeavors to bring the views of Iraq and Kuwait closer, and Saddam's promise not to carry out a military action. However, he added, Saddam had bigger and more dangerous plans in mind against the Arab nation, which even constituted a threat to a number of Arab countries. [passage omitted]

Mubarak explained that Iraq continues to cling to its position, noting that it recently announced that Kuwait is Iraqi territory. The president said that the situation requires time because wounds need to heel and Iraqi needs to become moderate. He added that he is very sad about the suffering the Iraqi people.

He said that Egypt is opposed to dividing Iraq, saying that it would damage pan-Arab security. Egypt never hesitates to perform its role in reforming and clearing the Arab atmosphere, Mubarak noted.

Author and journalist Jamal al-Ghitani asked the president about extremism and attempts to make Egypt lose its dearest possession—education—because extremism threatens the essence of the nation's education and intellectualism. He also asked about holding a conference for the enlightened political forces. President Mubarak answered that a discussion of extremism and terrorism between all political forces is ongoing in the People's Assembly, in which party leaders and all political forces participate. [passage omitted]

Writer Tharwat Abazah said that extremist forces must be confronted with weapons. Historian Dr. 'Abd-al-'Azim Ramadan also spoke about whether efforts are underway to contain problems in Egyptian-Sudanese relations or Egyptian-Iranian relations. President Mubarak answered that Egypt supported the National Salvation revolution in Sudan and does not interfere in

Sudanese affairs. Egypt also places relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese people in their correct position. He affirmed that borders between the two countries are open at all outlets and that there is no change in the mutual facilities or transport between the two countries.

He said Egypt is eager to have good relations with all countries, adding that such relations must be governed by mutual respect. He added that Egypt rejects all forms of interference in or control of thought or attempts to harm the security of the homeland. [passage omitted]

Two Arrested in Connection With Police Deaths

NC2701215993 Paris AFP in English 2039 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, Jan 27 (AFP)—Two Muslim fundamentalists have been arrested in connection with the murder of two policemen in downtown Cairo, police said Wednesday [27 January].

In southern Egypt, police said they also arrested a suspected leading member of the radical Muslim group al-Jihad and seized a hit list of names of senior Egyptian officials.

The two suspects in the police killings were arrested within hours of Sunday's attack in the suburb of Giza in possession of three automatic rifles and more than 300 Russian-made bullets.

Police said they were part of an eight-member hit squad and that the other six were still on the run.

The suspect arrested Wednesday in the southern town of Asyut was identified as 27-year-old Hafiz Sabir Mahmud. Police said he was the second-in-command of al-Jihad in Asyut province and its military chief for the region.

Southern Egypt, notably Asyut, has been the scene of a string of attacks by Muslim fundamentalists on Western tourists, police and Coptic Christians over the past year.

Further Attempt on Policemen Reported Foiled

NC2801113293 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1033 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—A high-level security source has reported that early yesterday morning security agencies foiled an attempt by a group called the "Vanguard of Conquest" [tala'i' al-fath] to assassinate a number of policemen in al-Fayyun, including the official in charge of the state investigation department. This is one of a number of cells branching from the Jihad organization. The source said that a minivan with license number 58208, al-Jizah, was seized and found to contain three automatic rifles, 214 bullets, and eight magazines.

It was learned from security sources that most of these members had traveled to Afghanistan and returned with forged passports after receiving combat training and participating in fighting the communist regime there. On instructions from Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, the security organs are trying to recover the automatic weapons the culprits stole from one of the two dead policemen and the 9-mm pistol used in an earlier shooting. Six empty cartridges and live bullets were found at the scene of the shooting. The culprits hurled smoke bombs in the area. Two eyewitnesses gave the security authorities a complete description of the four defendants.

Sudan

Al-Bashir on U.S., Syrian Hala'ib Mediation

EA2701221093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Port-Sudan, 27 Jan (SUNA)—The chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] and premier, General 'Umar al-Bashir, has hailed the Syrian initiative for mediation between Sudan and Egypt on the Hala'ib issue.

Sudan welcomes any mediation to settle the dispute for the benefit of the peoples of the two Nile Valley countries, he said. Speaking at the graduation ceremony of the first batch of air pilots here Wednesday [27 January] Gen. al-Bashir asserted that Sudan set up a joint committee with Egypt on the Hala'ib issue. But, he added, Egypt favoured to send its forces towards the (Red lines) [as received], a matter that motivated Sudan to raise a memo to the U.N. on the Egyptian provocations.

He called for unifying Arab and Islamic ranks, expressing hope that the change [which had] recently occurred in the U.S. Administration would lead to a suitable atmosphere for the re-establishment of relations between the U.S. and the Arabs based on justice and equality.

Al-Bashir distributed awards and prizes to distinguished graduates, and conferred medals on some officers of the college.

Ministry Official Briefs Ambassadors on Hala'ib

EA2701223493 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Mr. 'Umar Yusuf Baridu, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, has briefed the ambassadors of Algeria, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and France on the developments of the Hala'ib issue in its various stages, and the Sudan's firm stand towards it and keenness to reach a peaceful solution to the problem. This emerged during his excellency's meeting with the ambassadors in his office this morning.

At the meeting his excellency dealt with the U.N. General Assembly resolution on human rights in Sudan. He affirmed that the resolution was political and explained that the human rights record in Sudan was an honorable record. The under secretary discussed with the ambassadors relations between their countries and Sudan and ways of strengthening and developing them.

Equatoria State Governor Reports Stability in Torit

EA2701143193 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1540 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Jan (SUNA)—Major General Saturnino Harikha, governor of Equatoria State, has announced that the town of Torit [southeast of Juba; previously held by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army] and areas around it are enjoying stability and peace, and pointed out that more than 100 people are pouring into Torit every day. He said life was proceeding normally in the town.

This came in a statement which His Excellency issued after his recent visit to Torit, noting that he had sent a letter to the citizens advising them to return to the town which was now witnessing peace and stability. Saturnino explained that there was continuous movement on the Torit-Juba road and said that the opening of Torit primary school and the distribution of [words indistinct], exercise books, and pens to the pupils of the school had been completed.

His Excellency added that he had visited the units of the Armed Forces, Defense Forces and the United Police, and said that morale in these units was high.

Oman

Official Comments on Iran, New U.S President

PM2701154393 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Jan 93 p 5

[Interview with Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Husayn 'Abd-al-Ghani in Muscat; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-Ghani] What is the Sultanate of Oman's position on the confrontation between the West and Iraq which has returned tension to the region, especially as Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id called for defusing the war in the region?

[Bin-'Alawi] The renewal of the confrontation in the region results from the international community's inability to compel the adversaries in the region to use diplomacy, which is supposed to be the foundation of the new world order in resolving disputes between states.

And it seems to me that this confrontation is the result of what is known as political despair or frustration among the political leaderships—which proves the United Nations' inability to use diplomacy to resolve the crisis. And we do not rule out the possibility of these confrontations' continuing in the future. But the outcome will be nothing but further internationalization, placing Iraqi citizens' interests at the mercy of force, which will not resolve any problem. In fact its use will further complicate the problem. We hope that all will use diplomacy and political negotiations to end the existing disputes.

['Abd-al-Ghani] How does the sultanate as an Arab country view what seems to be an excessive use of force against Iraq by the Western states and the failure of these states to refer to the United Nations before launching any military operation against Baghdad?

[Bin-'Alawi] I believe that the matter concerning the Gulf region is surrounded by many sensitivities. Perhaps it is the object of stubbornness between political leaders in Iraq and the United States and some Western states in order for each party to prove its ability to challenge.

It is not the correct way. The correct way is for all the conflicting parties to return to the facts. And they should use diplomacy and negotiations as a basis, especially as the UN Charter calls for protecting world peace and security and resolving disputes between states through peaceful means. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Ghani] It was reported that King Husayn's recent visit to the sultanate was part of Omani and Arab efforts to correct and normalize Jordan's relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states. Did you sense willingness from your colleagues in the council to respond to Oman this time. And can Jordan play a role in Gulf contacts with Iraq to put a limit to the rigidness of Iraqi positions and avert the present instability in the region?

[Bin-'Alawi] Everyone is looking to the future in the hope of protecting common interests and believes that he is entitled to protect his own interests by the means he deems suitable. But with regard to the disputes existing between Arab states, it will take some time before it is possible to surmount the wounds of the past. And without doubt King Husayn, who was in the sultanate last week on a private visit, is always welcomed in it. And we feel that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under King Husayn has a role which it can play in the framework of joint Arab action. But this role and any role for any Arab country should be based on a new view of relations among Arab states. Arab leaders and governments are still seeking to achieve this, but perhaps the time has not come yet. We believe that any Arab detente is linked to international detente and the comprehension of new realities. And we do not believe that there is a pressing or necessary need to bring the positions between the Gulf states and Jordan or any other state closer. But at level of the governments, they understand the various policies well and have the means which can be used at the right time to bring views closer. With regard to the leaders, they have experience from old contacts, and when the right time comes, the matter will not require a third party to play a role of this kind.

['Abd-al-Ghani] Gulf relations, and Arab relations in general, with Iran have become a cause of great concern, especially since the eruption of the islands crisis with the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. And the media attack after the recent GCC summit constituted a precedent after the first Gulf war crisis (the Iraq-Iran war). And some people say that the efforts which Omani diplomacy exerted quietly over years to normalize relations between the two sides of the Gulf dissipated or nearly dissipated after this crisis. Do you agree with this assessment?

[Bin-'Alawi] The fixed reality is that we share various interests with Iran, which is situated on the eastern coast of the Gulf. These interests are not new; they are deep-rooted. And there are ties which cannot be severed between Gulf society and Iranian society. And whatever the differences over certain issues, this reality, which is based on interlinked interests, will remain one of the strong pillars which will be a factor for improving relations between the Arab Gulf states and Iran. They will not be a factor for estrangement between the two sides of the Gulf.

We realize that there are some differences, and everyone is doing all he can to arrive at realities that would help to reach an agreement.

And despite existing differences over the islands of Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa, and the disputes between Iran and the UAE, it is still in all parties' interests to reach an agreement that protects common interests. And official or semi-official contacts or contacts via other parties are still continuing between the two sides—which proves the strong desire to find a solution and reach a final agreement that will end this dispute. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Ghani] You are closer to Tehran than any other Gulf official to a degree which makes you one of the few specialists in Iranian affairs. We mention to you three threats whose source, some of the region's states believe, is Iran. The first is that these states believe that Iran has historic ambitions in the region and aspires to seize Arab territories, as proved by the case of the dispute with the UAE over the islands. Do you agree with this view or with the other view that the dispute over the islands is part of the traditional border disputes in the region and that Iran is not an exception in this context?

[Bin-'Alawi] These views might sometimes emanate from establishments or people who are not working in the field of relations between Iran and the Gulf states. And they might be expressed in independent media services, and they are not necessarily facts. But within the framework of bilateral disagreements between states and as a means of communication such phrases are used to influence the other parties' positions.

We believe that every party has ambitions, but they are positive ambitions and we should develop them into positive, not negative, ambitions [sentence as published]. I mean that the main ambition which should be understood is the volume of mutual interests between the two sides of the Gulf. Without doubt it is in our interests to utilize the largest volume possible of economic and trade capabilities the Iranian market can absorb. It is a big market. If it is not at present, it will be in the future a big consumer market. And without doubt Iran as an agricultural state with some industries not available in our markets aspires to move into the Gulf market, which—by a certain standard—is considered a big consumer market. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Ghani] The second threat is the escalation of the armament process, especially in the past two years, and the fears this is provoking... even though some people say that Iran's armament might not be excessive for a large state and that it is part of a process of regional armament in which all the region's states have been involved, especially since the second Gulf war. So what is your position on this issue?

[Bin-'Alawi] The truth is that all the states and governments in the region are concerned about security threats. And obviously the natural reaction is for people to seek to acquire whatever they can to defend the interests they believe are threatened. It is a general matter. But I believe that people will discover after a period of time that they had embarked on something on which they spent huge sums of money at the expense of development, stability, and security.... on equipment and weapons which played no role and which they would not need. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Ghani] Do you not believe that there is concern over the scale of Iranian armament?

[Bin-'Alawi] Iranian armament is not new. And if we go back to recent or ancient history, we will find that there was armament in all stages of history. Perhaps there are numerous internal conditions and "peripherial" conditions which prompt people to think of acquiring weapons. But whatever the scale of the disagreements between the Arab Gulf states and Iran, I do not believe that they will develop into a stage in which one could imagine that Iran would embark on a military invasion of the Gulf region. Because that would mean the involvement of the entire Middle East region in the conflict. I believe that political leaders in the Gulf states and Iran are aware of this. And what is being said about this or that matter is a kind of political propaganda.

['Abd-al-Ghani] The third threat detected by some states in the region is what is being reported about Tehran's encouragement of extremist fundamentalist movements in the region and their threat to the stability of some political regimes. Do you agree with this view?

[Bin-'Alawi] I believe that too is a kind of political propaganda. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Ghani] With regard to Omani foreign policy, you spoke about the sultanate's call for a regional agreement that includes all the region's states as a guarantee for stability in the region. Does that mean that you have no intention of entering the arms race or increasing armament in the stage ahead, especially as there are reports that Oman intends to purchase tanks this year?

[Bin-'Alawi] We are not a party to an arms race at all. And the sultanate's military purchases are for the purpose of replacing old equipment and at a minimum scale, that is all. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Ghani] What are your expectations after the inauguration of new U.S. President Bill Clinton, especially as you expressed profound optimism when he was elected while there are some Arab concerns with regard to him?

[Bin-'Alawi] Without doubt the change of the administration in the United States from the Republican administration, which ruled for 12 years, to a Democratic administration is a big change. And there will necessarily be effects on the world stage. But we believe that these effects will be positive, not negative. For example, President Clinton said in his election campaign that he would primarily work to change the shape of the general U.S. policy, even though his focus is primarily on domestic policy, economic and social, and the other policies concerning U.S. domestic conditions.

When this is the new president's program for change, we should not expect that no change will occur in foreign policy. This is because the change in domestic policies will have a considerable effect on U.S. foreign policies.

With regard to the Gulf and Middle East regions, there will not be a fundamental change or a huge adverse change that causes an earthquake in U.S. positions toward the region. [passage omitted]

At any rate, we in the Sultanate of Oman—in view of our modern relations with the United States and within the framework of our fixed policy on the various issues, and from our strategic view of our issues, the issues of others, and our relations with others—feel that there is no need to be worried. This is because we cooperated efficiently with the Democrats in the days of President Jimmy Carter, and we also cooperated efficiently with the Republican administrations (Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush). These relations fall into the framework of mutual interests. And in Oman we are not worried about any change President Clinton and his new administration may make.

But at the Arab level, we can expect some change, especially with regard to U.S. aid to some Arab states. It will also reflect on some issues in the Middle East. And I generally believe that the Clinton administration will not make a huge change in its policy. But these changes might not be in line with what we wish and want. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Ghani] What is your opinion of the first Gulf fear regarding Clinton and the concern that he could be less committed to the Gulf states' security by, for example, moving toward rapprochement with Iraq or Iran?

[Bin-'Alawi] We should not look at Gulf security from the angle that we fall under the "protection" of the United States or the protection of other states! Otherwise, it would mean that we are talking about a protection other than the British protection which exiated in the Gulf and which was withdrawn in 1971.

We view security on the basis of basic factors and principles, namely that we should in the first place and in all cases rely on our ability to adjust our interests to those of others so as to guarantee our interests and those of others around us in the world. And if we have no "aggressive tendency", I do not believe that we will be exposed to any "aggressive tendency." The role of the United States just as a friend is to help us to achieve certain levels of development and progress. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Ghani] And what is your opinion of the second Gulf fear that Clinton's emphasis on democracy could create some tension with the Gulf states which have adopted a gradual approach with regard to the issue of democracy and political participation—an approach which they believe match their own conditions?

[Bin-'Alawi] When the talk is about democracy, it is not an aggressive tendency posing a threat to us. Democracy is a word equivalent to justice and equality—which exists in the Gulf states and Arab countries. And when we or others talk about democracy, it does not mean that we should jump from democracy's "base" to its "top." Each state and each society has its own conditions according to which it moves gradually toward the political development it needs. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Ghani] The third fear is that the Clinton administration could be less committed to the peace process in the Middle East and more biased toward Israel.

[Bin-'Alawi] That is something which we cannot judge. It can only be judged by the nature of the negotiations and the Arabs' ability to prove and defend their rights within the negotiations' framework. [passage omitted]

Italian Foreign Under Secretary Visits Muscat

AU2801111293 Rome ANSA in English 0824 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] (ANSA) Muscat (Oman), January 27—Oman and Italy will for the first time create a joint committee to coordinate and promote cooperation between the two countries, according to a decision reached during talks that Italian foreign undersecretary Giuseppe Giacovazzo had here today with local officials.

Oman is the first stop on a week-long mission that will also take the Italian undersecretary to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Giacovazzo today met with the state minister for foreign affairs, Yusuf Bin Alawi Bin-'Abdallah; the undersecretary for political affairs at the foreign affairs ministry, Prince Haitham Bin Tariq Al Sa'id; and trade undersecretary Khamis Bin Mubarak Al-Kiyumi.

The joint Italo-Omani commission will hold its first meeting in Rome during the last week in April. During the session, an investment protection agreement is expected to be signed by the two sides, as well as a protocol that will cover cultural, scientific and technological cooperation.

As part of Oman's industrialization plans, Muscat is urging an Italian presence in myriad sectors. Although the country's economy has been dominated in the past by the oil industry, Oman has limited oil resources and is looking to develop other areas, such as fisheries, and would like Italy's help.

Italo-Omani cooperation will be focused on joint ventures which can also be a blend of the private and public, Omani sources said.

Qatar

Turkish Prime Minister Arrives in Doha 28 Jan

JN2801105093 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Doha, 28 Jan (WAKH)—Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel arrived in Doha today from Saudi Arabia on an official one-day visit to the State of Qatar in the course of his tour of a number of countries in the region.

Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister, led those who received the Turkish prime minister.

The Turkish prime minister has visited Kuwait and Saudi Arabia where he held talks with the leaders and ranking officials of the two countries on bilateral relations and ways of developing and fostering them, in addition to the developments in the Islamic and international arenas.

Saudi Arabia

Further Reportage on Turkish Prime Minister's Visit

Comments on Talks With King

LD2701184593 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1705 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 27 Jan (SPA)—Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel said that talks between him and the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, had showed a complete similarity of views and had achieved their objective.

At a news conference held this afternoon at Conference Hall in Riyadh, he said: I had constructive talks with the custodian of the two holy mosques. I have longstanding ties with him, may God protect him, and he is a brother and a friend. The talks, he said, focused on regional matters, the common concerns of our two countries, and on bilateral, economic, and trade relations.

He added: the meeting touched upon the development of the situation after the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and the liberation of Kuwait, the recent developments in occupied Palestine, in Bosnia-Hercegovina and Karabakh, and the two countries' cooperation with the CIS countries.

He said: talks were constructive and useful. [passage omitted]

To a question on the importance of his talks with the custodian of the two holy mosques on Bosnia-Hercegovina, the Turkish prime minister said: I have certainly found that the custodian of the two holy mosques is feeling a deep pain, as we do, regarding the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, where ugly crimes are being committed, innocent people are killed, and the bloodshed has not stopped. We have touched upon this question in detail, and there is an understanding and an agreement between us to extend a helping hand. We are now waiting for the results of the Geneva conference. When an agreement is reached to secure security, peace, and a cease-fire, we will start removing the consequences of destruction in the region. We will then be able to cooperate with the Kingdom and the Islamic Conference Organization member states. [passage omitted]

To a question on the end of the respite period set by the foreign ministers of Islamic countries until 10 January and on the lack of any move concerning Bosnia-Hercegovina, his excellency Mr. Demirel replied: "On account of the distance that separates it from Bosnia-Hercegovina, Turkey cannot undertake a military initiative to stop the bloodshed and is still trying to urge peace-loving countries to make the move collectively, not individually, because a collective move would bring results as soon as the aggressor began carrying out repressive measures in a way that is completely against human behavior. [passage omitted]

Mr. Demirel denied there was a dispute over the water of rivers rising in Turkey. He said: "water is available in quantities sufficient to meet the needs of countries that benefit from it. There are talks over the issue among the countries concerned; Turkey has not taken any stand likely to harm the interests of her neighbors." [passage omitted]

Attends Luncheon

LD2701203093 Riyadh SPA in English 1922 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 27, SPA—Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, second deputy premier, minister of defence and aviation and inspector general, hosted in Riyadh on Wednesday a luncheon in honor of visiting Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and his accompanying delegation.

The banquet was attended by Prince Sattam Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy governor of Riyadh, Prince Muhammad Bin Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of the eastern region, princes, ulema, ministers and senior civil and military officials.

Departs Jeddah

LD2801092293 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0720 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 28 Jan (SPA)—Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and his accompanying delegation left Jeddah this morning. [passage omitted]

UN's Butrus-Ghali Proposes Fresh Dialogue

NC2701205993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Jan (MENA)—UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has proposed a fresh dialogue between the United Nations and Iraq, expressing hope that this will succeed in settling relations between the international organization and Baghdad's government. This came in a statement to AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow. He said the Vatican representative at the United Nations conveyed to him a message proposing mediation between Iraq and the Security Council. He said he in turn conveyed the message to the Security Council president. On the Somali crisis, Dr. Butrus-Ghali said the transfer of power from the U.S. forces to the peace-keeping force in Somalia has begun. The Security Council, he added, must issue a resolution authorizing the United Nations and its secretary general to handle the problem. He said contacts to secure the success of the reconciliation process in Somalia are being held with the Somali groups. [passage omitted]

UN Moves To Set Up Long-Term Weapons Monitoring

NC2701175593 Paris AFP in English 1721 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Report by Nadra Saouli]

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Jan 27 (AFP)—UN arms inspectors in Iraq plan to establish a system of long-term supervision of its weapons arsenal and have stepped up their activities with cooperation from Baghdad.

Three teams of inspectors from a UN commission charged with disarming Iraq under the terms of the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire resolutions have been at work since Monday to destroy Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction.

The 40 arms experts comprise 25 members of a chemical team, an eight-member nuclear mission and seven inspectors of ballistic missiles.

Reporting cooperation from the authorities, leaders of the teams have met Iraqi officials to discuss plans for long-term surveillance of the country's weapons arsenal.

Nikita Smidowich, head of the ballistics team, told reporters Wednesday that four UN inspectors led by the Russian Azad Vikilov would remain in Iraq but not on a permanent basis.

"We are thinking of a long-time inspection, (but) not forever, to get assessment of a technical point of view," Smidowich said. "There has been no objection from the Iraqi side." [passage omitted]

Assembly Denounces UN Decision To Extend Blockade

JN2701155693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jan (INA)—The National Assembly has denounced the UN Security Council's decision to extend the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq for another two months. In a statement issued today, the Assembly said that this measure shows disregard for peoples' right to freedom and an honorable life, and contravenes the world declaration on human rights and all international charters. It also runs counter to the UN objective of maintaining the stability and independence of member states.

In a statement issued today, the Assembly added that since the cease-fire in the Gulf war, Iraq has been implementing the UN Security Council resolutions and offering every type of assistance to the inspection teams concerning the destruction of weapons banned under UN Security Council Resolution 687.

The statement affirms that by adopting such a decision, the UN Security Council has ignored all that Iraq has done with regard to the implementation of Resolution 687. This measure, the statement notes, is considered a violation of the resolutions of the UN Security Council itself, the principles of the UN Charter, and the sovereign rights of all nations. The statement adds that this measure ignores all appeals by world public opinion, humanitarian organizations, and states calling for an end to the blockade imposed on Iraq and a halt to all military practices, such as the use of military force in international relations.

The statement says that Iraq has taken the initiative by proposing peaceful solutions to this crisis and calling for a dialogue to resolve all international and regional problems. In pursuance of this peaceful approach, on 19 January Iraq launched an initiative for a unilateral cease-fire. Iraq has been committed to this initiative because it believes that the new U.S. Administration should be given a chance to reconsider its policy toward Iraq and the entire question. Iraq has also sought to provide an opportunity for constructive dialogue for the sake of a stable world and to put an end to the violations to which Iraq and its territorial sovereignty have been exposed, thus providing a chance for stability in the region as a whole.

Prime Minister Predicts End to 'Unjust' Situation

JN2801085293 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Jan 93

[Interview with Iraqi Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi by Chief Editor Dr. Musa al-Kilani in Baghdad "two days ago"]

[Excerpt] Muhammad Hamza al-Zubaydi, Iraqi prime minister and member of the Revolution Command Council, has said that Iraq views relations with Jordan within a strategic concept and not according to narrow or temporary circumstances. He said Iraq is concerned with the broad pan-Arab dimension that reflects the cohesion between the two sisterly countries.

This came in an exclusive interview with the chief editor two days ago. Al-Zubaydi said Iraq understands the circumstances Jordan is suffering due to its honorable nationalist stances with Iraq, and added: We followed the fierce pressures they practiced against Jordan since the beginning of the crisis, and we know how sincere are the Jordanian nationalist positions, which were clearly manifested over the past three years, and which are continuing.

The Iraqi prime minister predicted that a way out of the injustice and unjust situation Iraq is suffering will soon be found. He said there is a change in the international public opinion, which has started to support Iraq and understand the just viewpoint of the Iraqi people. He referred to the Russian and French positions, and the position of the people of Moscow, who raised Iraqi pictures and took to the streets to protest the aggression of 17 January 1993.

He said: The siege imposed on Iraq was not altogether evil. We were able to move toward self-sufficiency in the agricultural field through huge development projects, including three new rivers, which are the Saddam River; the al-'Izz [glory] River in the south; and the 190 km Mother of Battles River, as well as the al-Najaf agricultural project, and Mosul agricultural project. [passage omitted]

Turkey Criticized for Incirlik Base's Use by West

NC2701205093 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 19 Jan 93 p 12

[Text] Ankara (A.A.)—The Iraqi Administration has informed Ankara that it has been harmed by Turkey's move to allow Incirlik Air Base to be used against Iraq. 'Isam Khalil, under secretary of the Iraqi Embassy in Ankara, has said in a statement to HURRIYET: "An Iraqi airplane was hit by the aircraft which took off from Incirlik Air Base. We expected Turkey not to allow its territory to be used against Iraq. The incident is very regrettable."

'Isam Khalil was asked: "Incirlik Air Base has been used in accordance with the concept of self-defense. Do you believe that it also will be used for offensive purposes?" He replied: "What kind of self-defense are you talking about? That concept only applies to the defense of the homeland. We are defending ourselves. They are attacking Iraq. The aircraft that took off from Incirlik Air Base during the Gulf war carried out thousands of sorties against Iraq. What took place then will be repeated now."

Seriousness of Peace Initiative Stressed

JN2801095193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that Iraq is both sincere and serious about its intentions to reach a new phase with the new U.S. Administration.

In an article published in the "Stand" column today, the paper says: Iraq's seriousness and good intentions, as demonstrated by the text and spirit of the cease-fire initiative, cannot be doubted or misinterpreted.

The paper describes the rumors and allegations that the Iraqi radars and missile batteries have assumed an attack position as a mere fabrication and constitute an attempt at shuffling cards and distorting concepts and views.

AL-THAWRAH sheds light on the objectives behind these rumors and allegations that followed Iraq's peace initiative. It says they aim at maintaining the abnormal status quo that was created by the policy the former Bush administration had adopted toward Iraq.

The paper underlines the objectives the leadership sought to achieve through its decision and peace initiative. It says the leadership sought to create a suitable atmosphere for the current U.S. Administration to review the former administration's policy toward Iraq in preparation for a constructive and successful dialogue that would put matters in their proper place and lead to a state of stability in the region.

The paper discusses examples of Iraq's serious abidance by its peace initiative and says: The past days have confirmed Iraq's seriousness about what it had stated and abidance by that initiative despite the U.S. violations of the cease-fire under various, baseless pretexts.

AL-THAWRAH also discusses Iraq's principled position on the issue of full sovereignty over its national soil. It says Iraq cannot allow the current abnormal situation to continue indefinitely, particularly with regard to the no-fly zones in the north and south.

The paper recalls the basis on which the Bush Administration established the zones. The paper says the no-fly zone decision lacks any legal or moral pretext or so-called legitimacy. It also infringes on Iraq's sovereignty and its legitimate right to extend this sovereignty over all parts, and in all four corners within its boundaries.

Saddam Chairs Air Force, Air Defense Meetings

JN2701143693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1428 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jan (INA)—Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has chaired a meeting of a number of fighter officers from the Air Force and Air Defense.

The meeting was attended by fighter Engineer Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization, and fighter Air Force Staff Lt. Gen. Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense.

Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has also chaired another meeting which included a number of officers from the Air Force and Air Defense.

The meeting was attended by Air Force Staff Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense.

Saddam Reportedly Preparing Offensive in North

NC2701160693 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Political circles believe that tyrant Saddam Husayn's regime is preparing to launch a major offensive against the citizens in northern Iraq to test the new U.S. Administration's resolve. Press reports said today that photographs taken by U.S. satellites reveal that the tyrant Saddam has ordered the mobilization of around 100,000 troops on the border with the safe haven in the north. The sources added that the ostracized regime's artillery began to shell the village of Makhmur, southwest of Irbil.

An Iraqi Kurdish official in Paris said that the Saddam regime's artillery bombarded several cities in northern Iraq last Sunday and Monday, including Chamchamal, causing numerous civilian casualties.

Army Reportedly Conducts Exercises in South

JN2801124593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] According to AL-THAWRAH, the Iraqi Army yesterday conducted exercises with live ammunition in southern Iraq. These exercises were attended by Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid on the occasion of a visit he paid to al-'Amarah, which is located just south of the 32d parallel.

The Iraqi paper did not, however, specify the location of the exercises in which infantry and artillery units took part; nor did it mention whether the exercises were conducted to the north or south of the 32d parallel. [Baghdad INA in Arabic carries within its daily review of Iraqi press headlines at 0705 GMT on 28 January the following headline without further elaboration: "Iraqi papers today report an exercise with live ammunition carried out by the Abu-'Ubaydah Forces."]

Bomb Reported at Security Headquarters in Khakurk

LD2701213193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] According to a report by the IRNA news unit, a bomb exploded on 20 January at an Estikhbarat [Iraqi secret service] headquarters in Khakurk, resulting in two hypocrite [monafeqin—reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq] leaders being killed and another injured.

The bomb, which had been hidden in a briefcase, exploded at a joint session between the heads of the hypocrites and the Iraqi Estikhbarat from the province of Khakurk.

The meeting was held following the U.S. attacks on Iraq and the Iraqi Ba'th party efforts to confront possible mass actions.

It is worth mentioning that a while ago Kurdish groups had announced that the hypocrites were creating obstacles to the transfer of foodstuffs and medicines to the north of Iraq and to Iraqi Kurdistan and that they had plundered some of the goods which belonged to the Kurds.

In addition, the Iraqi Kurdish groups had already issued threats to the hypocrites. it is worth mentioning that this was one of many armed attacks during the past 10 days, in which weapons and bombs were used against members of the hypocrites in Iraq.

Iranian Monafiqin Members Killed in Baghdad Ambush

LD2701222993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Forty monafiqin [hypocrites; term used to refer to mojahedin khalq] forces were killed in Baghdad when an armed group launched an attack against them.

In a report quoting its sources in Baghdad, IRNA announced that on the morning of Thursday 21 January a bus carrying 40 monafiqin members was leaving baghdad for one of the monafiqin bases, was attacked by an armed group and all of its passengers were killed.

The attackers, who were armed with light weapons and grenades, ambushed the bus which was carrying the monafiqin and attacked all of its passengers.

On the basis of the same report, and according to witnesses, after the attackers pulled back and left the scene the Baghdad police forces together with a number of ambulances went to the place where the incident took place and began removing the bodies.

The witnesses added that the attack was so severe that the bodies had to be collected and removed in bags.

According to IRNA, this is the third attack during the past two weeks in which unknown forces have attacked this mini-group.

On the basis of the same report, a number of other members of that mini-group were also killed during another attack by armed forces on 11 January on a minor road in the (Imam Qeys) area of Iraq. During that attack four members of the monafiqin were killed and another seven were injured.

The monafiqin mini-group has issued a statement blaming the Islamic Republic of Iran for the attacks.

Foreign Minister Comments on Cease-Fire, U.S.

JN2701131793 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Jan 93 p 14

[By Rashid Hasan and Nayif al-Ma'ani]

[Text] Baghdad—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has praised His Majesty King Husayn, and the Jordanian Government and people's support for Iraq.

He said he is happy with the relations between the two countries based on total awarerness and sound choice and that they are an example of how fraternal relations should be.

In an interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B, al-Sahhaf affirmed that the Iraqi Government is committed to the cease-fire initiative. He said that more and more people are supporting this initiative and that many governments have welcomed it through diplomatic channels.

He said the recent attacks seek to kill the initiative and minimize its importance. He affirmed there are some officials from the previous U.S. administration who seek to exacerbate the situation in order to embroil the new administration.

Al-Sahhaf reviewed the incidents prior to the initiative. He said that the three Western countries—the United States, Britain and France—acted in an illegal and barbaric manner based on the use of oppressive force, imposed the so-called ban on Iraqi overflights in southern and northern Iraq, and claimed they were doing so on behalf of the international community. This is an illegal claim that violates all established laws and the UN Charter, and has nothing to do with the resolutions that have been unjustly imposed on Iraq. This is a direct colonialist action. He added: The recent steps were aimed at embellishing Bush's image.

Al-Sahhaf said: The Iraqi leadership realized this and decided not to give Bush the opportunity he seeks, thus postponing the battle for later.

He said: We began with a national decision of challenging the injustice that has befallen Iraq with the so-called no-fly zones and followed it on 19 January by submitting the initiative to give the new U.S. Administration the chance to study the facts in an objective manner, rather than the hostile manner adopted by the Bush administration.

Al-Sahhaf said that the initiative is objective and that the leadership, headed by President Saddam Husayn, was not begging anyone. Its aim was to give a chance for the facts to be studied within a larger perspective, especially since the situation in the region following the 30-state aggresion has deteriorated and become more complicated, security and stability have receded, and balances have been impaired whether westward where the Zionist enemy is, or eastward where Iran and the Gulf region are, and which has come under control.

In reply to a question on his assessment of the reactions to the inititiatve, the Iraqi minister said: The evil scheme has been exposed and there are now breaches in the alliance. The French weasel out and say that this was a U.S. operation. There is also Russia, which is disappointed with the West and which is experiencing domestic problems. Opposition parties from the extreme right to the extreme left supported Iraq and some of them expressed a desire to volunteer to fight with Iraq.

On the future of Iraqi-U.S. relations, he said: I do not like to speculate, but any objective study depending on facts would show that pursuing this conflict would not serve major U.S. interests. Therefore, the new U.S. Administration should adopt a new approach based on dialogue.

On the impact of the initiative on the Arab scene, al-Sahhaf said: The initiative was received with satisfaction and support. Some people deemed it a logical and good step, while others said that the U.S. Administration will change Bush's approach toward Iraq.

Answering a question on the inspection teams and the end of their mission, he said: There is no deadline for the end of the inspection, but there is an agenda. The head of these teams said, when a crisis broke out regarding the Agriculture Ministry, that Iraq had met its obligations under Resolution 687 and he used the expression "implemented most of its commitments."

Prior to the last aggression, the head of a UN missions said: It is regrettable that a crisis should take place while only 5 percent of the inspection missions remains. However, when he was subjected to pressure, he made it 10 percent.

The foreign minister added: I repeat that Iraq has implemented what was required of it, and what is left are marginal issues, such as names of companies, noting that the members of the teams know the names of these companies, since they have had access to containers bearing the names of manufacturing companies.

Answering a question on prospects for lifting the blockade, he said: The blockade is a purely political act. It is not a legal measure, and it conflicts with all international norms and charters. It also conflicts with the unjust resolutions imposed on Iraq. The Embargo Committee, for example, refuses to supply Iraq with absorbent cotton because it could be given to military hospitals, as it claimed. They would not even allow pencils, leather, or coffins into Iraq.

The foreign minister concluded: We have worked to expose these resolutions and circulated documents to the Security Council member states.

On exporting Iraqi oil, the Iraqi foreign minister affirmed that the Security Council resolutions in this regard fetter Iraq's future and restore foreign control over its oil. This fact was acknowledged by the heads of the committees to whom we spoke, he said. Their decisions are impractical, and this fact was confirmed by a Norwegian expert brought by the United Nations to read the Security Council conditions. The expert said that the resolution was impractical and could not be implemented.

The foreign minister added: After the inspection committees finish their job, we will call for implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 stipulating lifting the blockade on Iraq.

Opposition Leader Interviewed by Kuwaiti Radio

LD2701195393 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Interview with Ahmad Chalabi, chairman of the executive committee of the opposition Unified Iraqi National Congress, UINC, with correspondent Muhammad al-Qahtani; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Qahtani] Good evening, Dr. Ahmad Chalabi. Kuwait Radio greets you.

[Chalabi] Good evening.

[Al-Qahtani] You have followed up the statements made by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, the Kuwaiti first [as heard] deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on Kuwait's readiness to cooperate with the Iraqi national opposition that believes in Iraq's territorial integrity. A response was made on the pages of NIDA AL-RAFIDAYN, organ of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], which welcomed the statements. We would like to seek the opinion of the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC].

[Chalabi] Thank you. We also welcome the statements made by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, regarding cooperation with the Iraqi opposition that believes in Iraqi territorial integrity, and we consider that as an important positive development in relations between the Iraqi people and Kuwait in the aftermath of the criminal Saddam's invasion of Kuwait. We regard the statement as an opening for extensive and strong relations between UINC and the State of Kuwait and between the Iraqi people and the State of Kuwait, because the State of Kuwait has decided to cooperate and hold dialogue with the Iraqi opposition to Saddam, despite what took place in Kuwait, such as Saddam's invasion and the crimes committed by Saddam and his henchmen in Kuwait. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qahtani] Dr. Ahmad Chalabi, you have followed the recent speech made by the head of the Iraqi regime and the statement made by Tariq 'Aziz, the deputy prime minister of the ruling regime in Baghdad. We would like to talk about the speech and the statement, particularly where it concerns the political speech addressed to the new U.S. Administration and the regime's attempts to turn a new page. How do you assess that behavior?

[Chalabi] Deception, lies, and prevarication describe Saddam and his policy. Sometimes, Saddam tries to convince Arabs and Iraqis that his regime will stand up to the United States and its ambitions in the region, while at other times he tries to kneel down before the United States to gain its approval and remain in power. Saddam is well aware that his role in the region came only with support from the West, when he deceived the world by portraying himself as the invincible barrier to Islamic extremism. He was supported by the world for that reason. However, after he exploited that support to invade Kuwait and destroy whatever he destroyed in Kuwait and the strong fraternal relations between the Kuwaiti and Iraqi peoples, and after he became convinced that he would not remain in power without kneeling down before the United States, he is now trying again to deceive the U.S. and exploit the changeover in the U.S. Presidency to turn another page in relations. [passage omitted]

We denounce what was uttered by Saddam and his foreign minister [as heard] and urge the world and sisterly Arab countries to learn from the lessons of history and not to fall into the trap that is being set up by Saddam again.

[Al-Qahtani] Dr. Ahmad Chalabi, there were reports in the media recently on the movements of Barzan al-Tikriti, who is Saddam's half brother, and the possibility of him being put forward as a future replacement to the head of the Iraqi regime, and that he has even started to contact some oil companies with a view to selling them Iraqi oil at very low prices, not exceeding 35 percent of market value.

How do you view these developments? Do you expect the emergence of a replacement to the head of the Iraqi regime who could be acceptable to the coalition states or do you not imagine that the regime as a whole will survive in the final analyses?

[Chalabi] Barzan and Saddam are two faces of the same coin. Barzan is Saddam's brother, and he has been personally involved in crimes of murder against thousands of Iraq. He personally oversaw the kidnapping of over 8,000 of our brother Kurds from their homes in 1983 and there has not been any sign of them until now. This is in addition to his behavior as the head of intelligence and his responsibility for the assassination and kidnapping of Iraqis and the ruining of thousands of families. Barzan also has another role; he supervises the Iraqi funds that have been plundered. It is in this capacity that he contacts companies. I do not believe that the international community would accept Barzan, because that would mean the replacement of someone who has committed crimes against humanity by a war criminal. Therefore, I believe that Barzan's contacts are steered by Saddam and that Barzan will not exist without Saddam. We believe that the international community and the Iraqi people, particularly the Iraqi people, will not accept a change in Iraq that is led by Barzan, because the Iraqis are well aware who Barzan is and what he has done.

As for the enormous funds, looted from the Iraqi people, they are under Barzan's disposal; they will be returned to the Iraqi people, and we are trying in every way to get to these funds. I would not be revealing a secret if I told you that we are cooperating with international quarters that have relations with the State of Kuwait with a view to seizing the funds that are under Barzan's disposal.

[Al-Qahtani] Where have you reached in this issue?

[Chalabi] We have reached advanced stages in this issue, and we have been able to specify figures and companies and people who are involved with Barzan. We are trying to obtain further information in order to initiate legal proceedings in the countries where Barzan has put these funds.

[Al-Qahtani] There is no doubt that the Jordanian capital is where vast Iraqi activities exist, activities of the Iraqi regime. What about your presence, as the Iraqi opposition, in that capital city?

[Chalabi] For over 12 years ago, Amman has been a nest for Saddam's Mukhabarat and Istikhbarat apparatus [respectively Ba'th party and military intelligence]. Saddam's agents and cronies are everywhere. This was confirmed many years ago when in 1981, the Jordanian Government handed over an Iraqi opposition figure, Muhammad Hadi al-Zubaydi, to Iraq, specifically to Barzan, to be killed. The Iraqi Mukhabarat committed another murder in Amman recently; it murdered an Iraqi engineer there. Those who were implicated in that case were four senior Mukhabarat officers who received weapons from the Iraqi Embassy in Amman. The Jordanian Government is not able to take any measures against them at the moment, because it is afraid of the consequences of Saddam's wrath.

Regarding the Iraqi opposition and UINC relations with the Jordanian Government, King Husayn received Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and one of the founder members of the UINC, in Amman and in London. Support for the UINC Congress and the Iraqi opposition was discussed with him. I also had an audience with King Husayn last September in London. He stressed that the political developments for Iraq in Jordan would be in a way that would please the Iraqi National Congress.

[Al-Qahtani] Do you rely a lot on a progress in the Jordanian position that would constitute support for you as an opposition, and do you expect the reinstatement of the monarchy in Iraq?

[Chalabi] The Jordanian stance, we are trying in every way to win Jordan to our side and to distance it from Saddam's influence. We are trying to provide objective conditions for that through our contacts. As for the reinstatement of the monarchy in Iraq; this is up to the Iraqi people, and it will not be discussed until the removal of Saddam, when the Iraqi people will decide on the regime it desires.

[Al-Qahtani] Dr. Ahmad Chalabi, greetings from me and from Kuwait radio. Thank you for the interview.

[Chalabi] Thank you.

Court Rules Deportations Legal; Officials React

Decision Delivered

TA2801064993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0635 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the deportations are valid. Me'ir Shamgar, the president of the High Court of Justice, has just announced that the personal deportation orders are not invalidated by the fact that the deportees were deprived of the right of appeal prior to the deportation. On the other hand, the general deportation order which determined the temporary deportation is invalidated, but even this does not invalidate the individual deportations.

More on Ruling

TA2801083393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0715 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Report by Mira Amsalem]

[Text] We have more details on the High Court of Justice ruling. We have had the opportunity to peruse it, even if not in detail. We have before us the highlights of the ruling, with some of the arguments.

The judges ruled unanimously. It is important to note that there was no minority opinion here. The ruling of the court was that the general order of deportation for a limited period of time was illegal, but this fact does not nullify the deportations. The order was illegal because of its inherent flaw of denying the deportees the right of appeal. The judges ruled that this flaw must be corrected, and the correction they propose in their ruling is the appointment of an appeals committee before which the deportees will appear personally. The ruling was read by Supreme Court President Me'ir Shamgar, who was joined by Vice President Menahem Elon and Justices Shoshana Netanyahu, Aharon Baraq, Eliyahu Matza and Eli'ezer Goldberg. Regarding the issue of the personal orders, the judges stated that the deportees are entitled to meet with their attorneys.

The practical significance of the ruling, especially the part dealing with the general order, is that such a comprehensive order issued by a decision of the government—according to which it is possible to deport people without respecting their right of appeal—is unacceptable. There can be exceptions in which the security aspect justifies expulsions without the right of appeal, but these cases must be extremely concrete and detailed. Throughout the ruling and in the references section, the judges constantly reiterate the importance of the right of appeal, both from the viewpoint of Israeli law and also in light of the mistakes made in the deportation process. To recall, 78 orders were not carried out, 35 deportees were exchanged on the night of the deportation, and 15 deportees were returned. Only exceptional and concrete circumstances involving security risks can give security needs precedence over the right of appeal, according to the judges. The general deportation order issued in this case, however, does not detail the security needs. The order was too sweeping.

The appeals committee will hear the arguments of the attorneys of those deportees who submitted appeals individually. These attorneys claim that the facts against the deportees were not examined and that it was not proved that each one of them constitutes a security risk. The appeals committee will also deal with all the claims that the deportations were carried out too quickly and that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commanders decided who will be deported within minutes. The deportees' attorneys will be able to raise all these claims in detail before the appeals committee.

The court verdict also states unequivocally that the deportees must appear before the appeals committee at any location in which the IDF can ensure normal proceedings of the appeals committee. This means that the judges actually rejected the proposal of the attorney general, issued earlier this week, according to which the right of appeal could actually be exercised via phone calls or by means of a meeting between the attorney and the deportee.

Prime Minister Issues Communique

TA2801123293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1156 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Text] We have just received the official communique issued by the prime minister's bureau, and I quote:

Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, reiterates that the government will implement all the decisions of the Supreme Court in its capacity as the High Court of Justice. The prime minister notes that the High Court confirmed post factum the government's decision to temporarily remove the activists of the terror organizations. The prime minister ordered that the directives of the High Court of Justice be carried out as stated in the ruling, according to which the deportees will be able to appeal to the advisory committees and to appear before them in person.

The communique goes on to say that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is contacting the International Red Cross to help the deportees relay their appeals to the attorneys and that in the next few hours 14 advisory committees will be established for discussing the appeals of the deportees as soon as possible.

The communique also states that the IDF will enable the deportees to submit written appeals as of tomorrow. The IDF will look after the transportation and security of the attorneys. At the same time, the security information referring to every deportee who submits an appeal will be reexamined.

In sum, the prime minister is satisfied with the High Court's ruling. This is based on the first official announcement issued by him following the ruling. This announcement refers to all the technical measures necessary for implementing the High Court of Justice ruling.

Ben-Eli'ezer Comments

TA2801074693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0648 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Dan] You have just heard the High Court of Justice ruling and the remarks by the attorneys, which refer to a victory.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I do not see any victory. I understand at this stage that the court did not invalidate the government's right to keep those people out and referred to the right to appeal. We said in the past—and I believe this will be the case—that the government will honor the court verdict.

[Dan] Will the government permit each of the deportees to appear before appeals committees individually?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I said that the government cannot ignore a High Court ruling. It did not reject the right of the government to keep those people outside the country. I suppose that we will have to find some way to make sure that the court ruling is implemented.

[Friedman] Will the appeals committee go to them?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Naturally, I have no intention of discussing any operational move at this stage. The prime minister repeated yesterday—and I assume that the entire government stands behind him—that we will abide by the court rulings. As for the technical aspects of implementing that process, I can only tell you that I was commander of Judaea and Samaria at the time of the al-Qawasimi and Milhim [the mayors of Hebron and Halhul, who were deported in 1980] cases. We brought them to the Jordan River bridges, and the appeals committee heard them there.

[Friedman] When you look back at your vote in the cabinet, do you have any regrets?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Not only are there no regrets, but I would vote again exactly the same way. I believe the considerations behind the decisions not only stand but are stronger. I believe we were driven by our commitment to advancing security on one hand and by our commitment to the peace process on the other.

[Dan] What about the way in which it was done, with an eye to the next time, should there be one?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I think we will have to sit down and draw conclusions but, in principle, I repeat that I would vote again the same way. I believe the considerations at the time called on us to make such a decision, and I stand by my vote. I believe it was the necessity of the hour. It is very possible that the general level of expectations differed from ours, but perhaps by doing what we did we made it clear to the world that we are committed equally to peace—and we want to speed up the process—and to maintaining security.

Likud, NRP, Moledet Welcome Decision

TA2801083993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The Likud says that the High Court of Justice ruling leaves Israel in an international struggle against terrorism, and the Likud faction will help the government in the struggle against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Knesset Member [MK] Beni Begin told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the High Court ruling does not eclipse the clumsy manner in which the government carried out the deportation process.

The National Religious Party [NRP] also welcomes the High Court's ruling. The NRP believes that the deportations were justified and that the law permits the government to use every means to confront terrorism. MK Zvulun Hammer says that the government should adhere to its firm position rather than acquiesce to the left's demands to take advantage of some of the ruling's comments in order to renege on its original decision.

The Moledet Knesset faction welcomes the High Court's ruling. MK Rehav'am Ze'evi says the only interpretation of the ruling is that the deportees will remain deported.

Attorney General on Ruling

TA2801085393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0655 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Attorney General Yosef Harish by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] What is your initial reaction to the High Court of Justice ruling?

[Harish] My initial reaction is that it is a wide-ranging, thorough, and profound ruling, and we have to study it before responding to its contents.

[Dan] But you know that our listeners and the entire world are very interested. Perhaps you can explain in general terms, in a way each of us can understand, the practical meaning of this ruling?

[Harish] The initial significance—and I stress: It is only initial—is that the individual expulsion orders—in fact the overall expulsion move, which is made up of many expulsion orders against individuals—remain in force. The right of appeal after the fact is sufficient for the individual expulsion orders to be considered legal. The court asked or ordered or instructed—I do not know the precise wording it used, because I have not had time to read all of it—that any of the deportees who want to appear personally before the committee be permitted to do so.

[Dan] Mr. Harish, will you be able to advise the government on how those appeals will be implemented and where it will be done?

[Harish] The problem is less a legal one than a practical and logistic one. I assume that full arrangements will be made to implement the court ruling in toto.

[Friedman] Based on precedents, should this take place inside the State of Israel?

[Harish] I do not know; that is the tough logistic problem.

[Dan] Only logistic?

[Harish] Certainly. There is no legal problem, because legal guidance has been handed down.

[Friedman] Mr. Harish, it was also ruled that the general expulsion order is invalidated. Was a mistake made there?

[Harish] I do not think so, but I have still not read the argumentation in reference to the normative general orders; therefore, I cannot say....

[Dan, interrupting] The court ruled that it is illegal.

[Harish] I hear that from you. In fact, I also heard something about that in the courtroom in reference to one of the clauses, but the argumentation used is important. I believe that it says that these orders were unnecessary because the expulsion was carried out according to Regulation 112 and not according to special normative orders; therefore, these orders are unnecessary. They are invalid to the extent that they were meant to alter or detract from the right to present the defendant's case, and that was not the aim. That is what was said in the ruling, but because there was no intention from the outset to infringe on the right to present a case—we intended to provide the right of appeal after the fact—I believe that the orders do not really contravene the law. I must repeat, however, that all this is mere assumption because I have not read the argumentation.

[Dan] You are the one who advised the government and represented it in court. When you heard today's ruling, did you feel relief or, perhaps, the opposite?

[Harish] Of course I feel relief; why should I feel different? The government considered the expulsion a vital and imperative move at the time it was ordered, and that situation still exists; therefore, the expulsion remains valid. Why should I not feel relief?

[Dan] What about the way it was done? If it were possible, would you have changed something?

[Harish] I do not think so; I do not think so.

Talks Said To Continue Despite Ruling

TA2801115493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with the Jordanians believes that the peace talks will continue despite the High Court's ruling. Mr. Rubinstein says that the border disputes with the Jordanians also will be resolved. Mr. Rubinstein spoke with our correspondent, Yo'av Aviv, during a tour the Israeli peace delegation conducted along the Israel-Jordan border.

[Begin recording] [Aviv] Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian team, believes that the peace talks with the Arab delegations—including the Palestinian delegation—will pick up where they left off despite the High Court of Justice ruling determining that the deportees are to remain outside Israeli territory:

[Rubinstein] I believe that the peace talks will continue. I do not want to get into the issue of a timetable, of whether they will resume tomorrow, next week, or in another month. These talks will continue because they must continue. They are in the interest of all the sides. Let us recall that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is not a peace-seeking organization, but one that strives to undermine the peace process. Our struggle against Hamas will continue and the talks also will continue.

[Aviv] The head of the Israeli delegation refused to say any more on the issue of the Palestinian leadership's ability to make decisions than what Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said. Referring to the controversy with the Jordanians on various issues, Mr. Rubinstein says these issues are difficult but can be resolved:

[Rubinstein] We believe that the bilateral problems—regarding both the border and water issues, which are the two issues we are inspecting today—can be resolved. [end recording]

Government 'Exonerated' by Court

TA2801122193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Interview with Communications Minister Moshe Shahal by correspondent Le'a Zinder on 28 January; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zinder] Communications Minister Moshe Shahal, Rabin's closest adviser in the matter of the deportations, said the government was exonerated by the High Court decision.

[Shahal] They decided that the government has the authority to deport for unlimited time and to have the hearing after the action and that there was no need for a new legal act for this purpose.

[Zinder] Have you spoken to Mr. Rabin this morning about the ruling?

[Shahal] Oh yes, certainly, and I think that he is—as I am—he thinks that the High Court had decided that the deportation was legal, that it was completed, and that those persons who were deported are not entitled to return back to the State of Israel. And, I think, on every practical basis this was enough and very satisfactory.

[Zinder] Do you think that during the appeal process, which could be a lengthy one—we are speaking of 400 or so appeals—will the deportees be moved to a more comfortable location, say within the security zone?

[Shahal] I wouldn't say that this is our responsibility, with all due respect. I think that the State of Israel will help in any recommendation that the Red Cross will recommend and that we will see on a humanitarian basis. I think that the Lebanese Government should change the attitude of negligence and indifference to the situation because on one principle a thing has happened after the decision of the High Court: The deportation has been completed, and those persons are in the jurisdiction of the Lebanese Government.

Envoy on Upcoming UN Session

TA2801100493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0720 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Gad Ya'aqobi, permanent representative to the United Nations, by anchorman Roni Daniyel—live]

[Text] [Daniyel] Mr. Ya'aqobi, what are the implications of the High Court of Justice ruling in terms of Israel's struggle against sanctions at the United Nations?

[Ya'aqobi] I believe that the ruling did not change anything regarding the struggle we will be facing before or during the Security Council session, which will apparently be held on 1 or 2 February. This session was postponed at our request and following consultations with other members who wanted to enable the High Court of Justice to rule before the Security Council convened on this issue. The High Court has now handed down its ruling, and we all respect this ruling. The practical meaning of this is that the issue will now return to the United Nations. The fact is that the deportations remain in effect and, therefore, the Security Council will debate this issue and make its decisions. Our struggle will now be in terms of influencing the nature of these decisions. What we know for a fact is that the Security Council rejected and still rejects the deportations.

[Daniyel] Are you saying, sir, that the fact that each of the deportees will now be able to appeal to the appeals committee will not help Israel in the Security Council debate?

[Ya'aqobi] I think not. Perhaps this or that Security Council member will remark that Israel has facilitated the appeals process. In basic terms, however, the issue has not changed and, therefore, we should expect the struggle we have been anticipating in which we will be confronting all the Council members on the deportation issue. The question now is whether the Council will settle for another harsh denunciation of Israel and perhaps also the determination of a timetable for implementing its decision, or whether it will accept the position of the extremist countries that are influenced by the PLO and several Arab countries and take additional steps. We sincerely hope that the Council settles for another sharp denunciation of Israel and refrains from even setting a timetable. At this stage, however, this is only a hope which is not based on any concrete facts.

[Daniyel] Based on the contacts and talks you have been conducting, do you believe that we are heading for another denunciation and nothing more?

[Ya'aqobi] Look, we will certainly receive another denunciation. As for a timetable, there is a difference of opinion between the Council members. Some of them, mainly the United States, Britain, and to some extent New Zealand, are calling for no more than another sharp denunciation of Israel. Others are in favor of another sharp denunciation and a timetable for implementing the previous Security Council resolution calling for a return of the deportees. Some members favor an even more extreme position and recommend imposing sanctions. One of them, incidentally, is the Moroccan ambassador, who will be Council president as of 1 February.

[Daniyel] Over the last few days people in Israel have been saying that this is one of the sharpest confrontations between Israel and the United Nations. Is this your impression as well?

[Ya'aqobi] Certainly. Public opinion, the media, UN members, and especially the Security Council members are occupied with this issue. This is certainly an ongoing struggle. We are dealing with this issue day and night through talks, in the media, and by means of an information campaign. We should certainly expect a difficult Security Council session, especially in light of Butrus-Ghali's extremely one-sided report.

[Daniyel] Do we have any U.S. promise or at least a hint regarding its willingness to veto any attempt to impose sanctions on Israel?

[Ya'aqobi] We do not have any such U.S. promise. We hope that this is how it will act if we reach this stage. At this point, the United States' UN mission—which is currently headed by an ambassador who will be replaced by a new ambassador in three days—is doing everything possible to prevent a decision on sanctions and perhaps also to avoid having to decide whether to veto such a decision, and we must praise the United States for this.

Prime Minister on Deportations

TA2701210293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1940 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Studio interview with Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, by Yoram Ronen, political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, and Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari; from the weekly "Moqed" program—live]

[Text] [Ronen] Good evening. We are on the eve of the High Court of Justice's ruling, the UN Security Council debate, and the opening of a new chapter in the peace talks under the Clinton administration. This is the time to say good evening to Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister.

[Rabin] Good evening to you and to the viewers at home.

[Ronen] A good evening to my colleagues, Ehud Ya'ari and Gadi Sukenik. Mr. Prime Minister, the High Court of Justice is scheduled to issue its ruling on the deportees question tomorrow. If the court overrules the cabinet decision and orders the return of the deportees to Israel, will you consider this a blow, a severe blow, to you personally and to the government you head?

[Rabin] The High Court of Justice will decide whatever it decides, and I will not speculate on its ruling. I am convinced that the cabinet decision was right. The removal of 415 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members—political leaders, inciters, and organizers—dealt a severe blow to Hamas. I think that is what is required of me in my capacity as prime minister and defense minister and of the government: to fight Hamas, those extreme terrorists who attack Israelis and Palestinians and who mainly seek to hurt peace. Therefore, I acted in conjunction with the state attorney and the attorney general so that the government's case—that is, support for its decision—should be presented in the best possible way before the High Court of Justice.

I will not say—there is no need to guess—what I hope the court will rule. I will not engage in any speculation on the court ruling and what the government will decide subsequently. One thing is clear: The government will abide by the High Court of Justice ruling.

[Ya'ari] Sir, did you want to punish Hamas or take preemptive action?

[Rabin] I wanted to crack down on Hamas' ability to operate. Through this act and other arrests—we arrested another 1,000 people in addition to the 415 deportees—I wanted to force Hamas bodies worldwide, including in the United States, to act in a way which would enable us to delve deeper so that we may learn more about Hamas and its financial resources, where it gets its inspiration from, and, of course, so as to impair its activities. In practice, Hamas activities have been severely impaired in the last 40 days. I know this is not a long-term blow. To fight terror and violence you must keep dealing blows, and I think this was one of the most serious blows Hamas has been dealt by Israel. It also illustrated to others that when people go too far the government can make decisions of immediate consequence and with significant results.

[Ya'ari] Has any progress been made with the United States?

[Rabin] We have been in contact with the United States. It has been trying to postpone the UN Security Council meeting. I do not particularly like the so-called wait for the court decision. The High Court of Justice ruling is an internal Israeli affair. Our stand in the Security Council is against world hypocrisy. UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's report is a reward to Hamas. I have no doubt that Israel must tackle Butrus-Ghali's distorted and slanted report, which hardly makes any mention of terror and actually ignores Hamas' goal of hurting peace.

Moreover, the UN secretary general talks about double standards. Can one compare the temporary removal of 415 murderous inciters with what Iraq did? Are those the standards? Can one compare it to what Libya did? It blew up two airplanes: the explosion of a French plane resulted in 170 fatalities and the Pan Am plane resulted in 270 fatalities. Can one compare our case to what is happening in Bosnia? Are those the standards? Has any Hamas member been killed as a result of our operation? Have we not said that they would be allowed to return after the duration of their removal?

[Ronen] Were you surprised by Butrus-Ghali's position?

[Rabin] The United Nations does not surprise me at all. Neither am I surprised by Butrus-Ghali; he is an Egyptian. Because of his being an Egyptian and a citizen of the only Arab country that has signed a peace treaty with us, which it has been fulfilling for over 13 years, occasionally in the face of tough challenges, I had expected some kind of balanced position from him. Is our case in any way comparable to the murders and the violations of international law by Iraq, Libya, and what has been happening in Yugoslavia?

[Sukenik] It is a very harsh pronouncement to say that you did not expect anything from him because he is an Egyptian.

[Rabin] I said I had expected more from him, and I am disappointed. As I said before, Butrus-Ghali has rewarded Hamas.

[Sukenik] Ever since the deportations—or what you call the temporary removals—you have been saying that you will not budge from your decision and that it will be executed in full. However, you have not said as much tonight. Are we to surmise that the decision will be executed in full if the court ruling endorses the legality of the deportations?

[Rabin] The decision will be implemented just as the cabinet stipulated. The cabinet decided to take immediate action, to remove temporarily Hamas leaders, instigators, and organizers who propagate murders and killings. I will be glad if the court endorses the decision.

When I say that I adhere to the cabinet decision, what I mean is that the temporary removal of 415 men....

[Ronen, interrupting] How long will they stay in Lebanon? Nine months? Two years? Does it make any difference?

[Rabin] Allow me to finish my answer. In fact, 16 deportees have been allowed to return, including the youngster who was deported by mistake. The other 15 include nine who were deported in contravention of my orders and those of the chief of staff. They were in the midst of legal proceedings or in the pretrial phase. We did not remove them; we wanted to bring them to trial.

[Sukenik] Those are gestures. We are talking about the majority.

[Rabin] I am not talking about gestures. The other six had already been tried. Two of them—that is, two-thirds—refused to return. One of them knows he will be going back to jail for 20 years, and he chose to stay in Lebanon rather than go back to jail. Therefore, all this talk about deportation being worse than death...[changes thought] Believe me, none of them would be willing to die but would be willing to be deported. Israelis who have lost their dear ones, the relatives of victims of terror, came to see me. Some of them told me: It is a real pity that Nisim Toledano or Helena Rapp were not given the choice of death or deportation for two years.

[Ya'ari] Mr. Prime Minister, would you be willing to consider in the future the possibility of holding them in the security zone for the duration of their removal?

[Rabin] No way, not at all. Although the security zone is Lebanese territory, it is controlled by the Israeli Defense Forces. Should we return them to the security zone to watch over them there? Believe me, this would entail dangers on which I do not wish to elaborate. This would force us to watch over them and would not be a temporary removal. In my opinion, temporary removal means that they should be beyond areas under our control or influence.

[Ya'ari] Could a possible UN Security Council debate to impose some kind of sanctions on Israel—that does not seem to be the situation at the moment—make us change our minds?

[Rabin] Not mine. Let me tell you why: I appreciate President Clinton, and I cannot conceive of him taking the harshest anti-Israeli measure in 35 years, a measure which no U.S. President has ever conceived of taking. I cannot conceive of him not just not supporting sanctions but not objecting to sanctions against Israel. All U.S. Presidents in the last 35 years, including at the time of the Lebanon war and other events, have made that abundantly plain. They never conceived of supporting sanctions against Israel or of not objecting to them. Therefore, I cannot conceive of President Clinton lending a hand to sanctions or, what is more, not objecting to them.

[Sukenik] Did he make you any promises when you talked on the phone?

[Rabin] No, I did not discuss the matter with him. I did not ask him anything in this context. However, I cannot conceive of President Clinton being the President to take the harshest anti-Israeli measure, something no other U.S. President has done, in 35 years. I was impressed by him, I met him, I have read about him—I can simply not conceive of such a turn of events.

[Ronen] President Clinton will presumably ask us to make gestures or concessions with regard to the deportees, the alternative being that the deportees remain at the Zummarayya crossing for another nine months or two years and to hell with what the world must say.

[Rabin] I do not want to speculate on the content of our dialogue with the United States. The Israeli cabinet decided to remove these 415 men temporarily. We believe we did the right thing, and we hope the High Court of Justice will support us. This is up to the court, and I will not talk about it. That is why we put the entire legal system to work, to support our decision. I believe we must tackle the UN Security Council. Butrus-Ghali's report mentions the establishment of a monitoring mechanism in the territories. According to the Geneva Convention, there is no such thing. What the Geneva Convention calls the occupation authorities—the Israeli authorities in this case—are the only ones responsible, and we will not let anybody stick his nose in to monitor us.

[Sukenik] Is talking to Butrus-Ghali like talking to the wall? You were quoted as saying that.

[Rabin] I do not want to elaborate on that. I have heard of very distinguished officials from Arab countries who expressed their astonishment at Butrus-Ghali's position.

[Ya'ari] Do you think he is acting on behalf of Egypt?

[Rabin] No, not at all. I think he is acting independently, but let us forget about him for the moment.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, let me go back six weeks, to the day the cabinet decided on the deportations. In hindsight, do you not feel the cabinet decision was made hastily, without giving it full consideration? Justice Minister David Liba'i said he was only given 10 minutes to arrive at a decision and that he had asked for another 24 hours. Perhaps if he had been given another 24 hours the legal imbroglio which the High Court of Justice is scheduled to end tomorrow could have been avoided.

[Rabin] Permanent and temporary deportations are anchored in the defense regulations for times of emergency which were in effect when I was defense minister in the national unity government and are still valid.

Let me tell you what happened: There was an accumulation of terrorist acts by Hamas. I felt it was my duty as prime minister and defense minister to take action to attain more security, to crack down on the men who spearheaded terror and abominable murders and on the organization whose objective was to harm the chances of peace. I decided that what was called for was immediate, substantial, and severe action. In view of the events, the chief of staff, the police minister, and myself met on the evening before the decision to discuss various possibilities. The next day, at 0800, the decision was formulated. I summoned the attorney general; legal experts; and Ministers Amnon Rubinstein, Moshe Shahal, and Shulamit Aloni. The justice minister was stuck in traffic, so I met him later. We all sat together. Quite the contrary, the justice minister helped word the decision, and, to a certain extent, he also helped the attorney general. He also made an important contribution concerning the right to appeal the decision within 60 days.

[Sukenik] However, all of them later complained that they were not given enough time or information. This has been publicized.

[Rabin] I think the responsibility lies with me. Just as I did not look for partners to success—success always has many partners; I am the prime minister, and I bear the responsibility—I am not asking those who are afraid to be my partners when things take a bad turn.

[Sukenik] Did you consider the possibility that the United Nations might act the way it has? Did you think Lebanon or some other Arab country would take the deportees in? Did you think the peace process would continue?

[Rabin] I do not want to go into details. I decided to take this action, and I am responsible for it. The execution of the decision was delayed due to legal proceedings which I should have considered. This lapse allowed the Lebanese Government to prepare. However things turned out, I am responsible for the developments. I knew the world would not applaud us. In recent years, every time two Arabs were deported the UN Security Council would hold a session. I knew that. Israel must decide whether it wants peace and to fight terror to attain it.

We say we are prepared to go ahead with the peace negotiations regardless of whether there is terror or not. However, our fight against terror is not conditional on the continuation of the peace negotiations. This is the Israeli position.

The Palestinians and the Arab world say: If you go ahead with your decision, we will not return to the peace negotiations. The Arab world needs peace no less than we do. Peace is not a gesture or an act of charity. I believe the Arab countries—Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon—are interested in peace negotiations or else there would be no negotiations. I believe the same holds true with regard to the Palestinians. The latter do not have a cohesive leadership—at least, not at present—but we talk anyway. I tell you, there will be peace negotiations in 1993, and progress will be made.

[Ya'ari] What else is required beyond the struggle with terrorism and the expulsion of 400 Hamas activists? Do you believe the proposals we have submitted to the Palestinians will enable the peace process to take off? Do these proposals offer sufficient grounds for progress toward an agreement? I ask because, representing the average man in Alfey Menashe, for instance, I doubt it.

[Rabin] As for negotiations with the Palestinians, I would like to differentiate between two things. First, the approach to the process: The Palestinians came to the talks after agreeing to the letter of invitation to the Madrid encounter. What did it stipulate? That progress would be made in two phases. We are not supposed to refer to autonomy, but there is ISGA, the interim self-government arrangement, which ought to be a corridor to a new reality. It will transfer almost all Civil Administration tasks to the Palestinians; it will lead to the abolition of the Civil Administration; it will give them an opportunity no one has ever offered them, not one country which could have done that. This is just the five-year interim arrangement.

They know that the stand of the current Israeli Government differs from that of the Likud government. We are not greater Israel supporters. Of our own volition, we are against annexing 1,800,000 Palestinians. We are ready for a territorial compromise but not to a withdrawal to the 1967 lines, not to the repartitioning of Jerusalem. Yet, they want the interim arrangement to lead to one solution only: a Palestinian state. This contravenes their earlier consent to the basics of the Madrid conference. This is the main problem. If they do not modify this approach, they will remain where they have been in the past 50 years, alone on the railway platform after the train has left. Israel will...

[Sukenik, interrupting] Then on what do you base your optimism? I must refer to your remarks in which you said we would score achievements in 1993. Is there anything you know that we do not?

[Rabin] I base my optimism on the Arab countries' different approach. I refer to Egypt; Syria; Jordan; and, naturally, Lebanon.

[Sukenik] You still believe it will happen this year despite everything?

[Rabin] Despite everything. When progress starts, the Palestinians will have no choice.

[Ronen] You promised it would happen within nine to 12 months.

[Ya'ari] Why Syria first?

[Rabin] I believe that if I understand correctly what happened at the Arab foreign ministers' conference, Egypt and Syria showed greater interest than other countries in promoting the peace negotiations. Jordan, too. However, the Palestinians are the hampering element, because they simply lack a leadership capable of making decisions.

[Ya'ari] Mr. Prime Minister, do you mean to say that the approach previously promoted by you, by Mr. Peres, by the Labor party, which accorded special priority to the negotiations with the Palestinians, was erroneous? Apparently, the priority is now given to negotiations with Syria.

[Rabin] I will try to explain. If your question refers to 1989 and 1990, there was then an opportunity for progress with the Palestinians. Today, in the present format...[changes thought] I admit that nine months ago, on the basis of certain talks—mainly indirect ones—I perceived other trends. I am willing to admit the truth here: My expectations from the Palestinians have not materialized so far, in terms of either approach or timeframes. Conversely, I must note that I perceive signs of the beginning of change in Syria. Analytically, this means that an agreement with Syria is a favorable strategic change for Israel, while an agreement with the Palestinians is a political change and an image change. We want to achieve both, and we will try to achieve both.

[Ya'ari] Simultaneously?

[Rabin] I did not say simultaneously.

[Ya'ari] I meant whether you were speaking of a package deal?

[Rabin] The Madrid format in any event specifies simultaneous negotiations with all the delegations for the same duration. We will explore every direction. I do believe significant progress is achievable at least in one sector, and I will not specify which one at this point.

[Ronen] Do you not think that the lack of a solution to the deportee problem will significantly delay the peace process? All the Arab delegations are saying: First solve the deportee problem, and then we will talk about continuing the peace process.

[Rabin] Let us not get all worked up about this. I met the European Parliament president today, who spoke mainly of continuing the peace process. He referred to the issue of the removed people as an incident. I believe it is an incident we will overcome, and we will achieve that without giving up the government's basic stand on a limited removal, not exceeding two years, of the Hamas leadership.

[Sukenik] Do you realize that most of your cabinet ministers are today ready for—even interested in—a significant compromise? This differs from your approach, the one you just reconfirmed, to let the original decision stand.

[Rabin] Look, I do not know what ministers have said. I think the cabinet position is judged by its resolutions, by the ministers' votes.

[Ronen] However, Gadi knows what the ministers told him in the poll.

[Rabin] Excuse me, excuse me. I will not give the ministers any marks. They are my partners in the governmental effort. Everyone does whatever he can, and we all act as a team. I have had no difficulty—at least in the defense and foreign affairs spheres—in passing resolutions I wanted. All the resolutions were endorsed.

[Sukenik] Is their not voicing their inner truths a bit worrying?

[Rabin] I did not say that.

[Sukenik] It is almost like a presidential system.

[Rabin] We held debates on every issue, including the government stand on the peace negotiations and the defense policy. We have held serious debates and taken a vote in each of these spheres, and I assess the ministers' positions by the vote. I would like to add: I appreciate the fact that in these issues I have had no difficulty in getting endorsement for the resolutions I wanted.

[Ya'ari] Mr. Prime Minister, I believe I have heard you utter new things on the theme of what I term Syria first. My question is whether you think you will be ready to pay the price for an agreement with Syria first. The price is self-explanatory.

[Rabin] I do not know yet. I am exploring every direction. I think it is a mistake to go into detail, to stray from a discussion of essence, at this stage of negotiations with Arab countries and with the Palestinians. Even in my party there are people who run to 'Arafat and make him all kinds of offers. Believe me, they are harming the chances for achieving peace.

[Sukenik] Even after the Antiterror Act has been amended?

[Rabin] It has nothing to do with the Antiterror Act. Such meetings were held in the past. I will tell you why: If anyone thinks his coming to either 'Arafat or 'Arafat's messengers and trying to please them will benefit the negotiations in any way, he is wrong. Negotiations are conducted between delegations through occasional indirect conversations and through attempts to secure the support of governments, such as that of Egypt, the United States, the Europeans. I have expectations from a few of the latter. Thus, when the Palestinians realize they have no choice, that they need the negotiations if they want to achieve something, to change their condition dramatically at least in the framework of an interim arrangement without settling the permanent status for the time being, when they realize that, they will have to accept the principle of two-phased progress, which had been agreed on in advance. I believe they will get there. We must smite Hamas for that purpose, as well as for others.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, we will use the remaining time for several domestic issues. During the famous last crisis between SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and Meretz about three months ago, you said that there were problems but that you would see to it that there would be no more problems like these in the government. Yet, we have again heard Minister Shulamit Aloni utter controversial remarks and SHAS demand that she be assigned a new government position.

[Rabin] Let us not waste time on these things. I have received a telephone call from Minister Der'i, as well as a letter. I have also received a telephone call from the education minister. It is true an agreement was made [that Aloni would be ousted in the event of another instance of antireligious remarks], and I will honor it. However, I must give Minister Aloni an opportunity to tell me what it was that she said. Her remarks were made before 300 people, and the deputy education minister was also present. Let me find out what happened there. I believe we will settle the affair, don't worry. Let us discuss the really important things.

[Sukenik] However, you did promise SHAS.

[Rabin] An agreement was made, and I did promise. You know, Minister Aloni told me even a criminal deserves a right to be heard, and she does not think she is a criminal. She may be right.

[Ya'ari] There are people in Labor who think that reshuffling Education Ministry personnel will help broaden the coalition by integrating the United Torah Jewry party, which is quite eager to join.

[Rabin] The issue has emerged, and I will deal with it. Let us not waste time on that. Problems like that come up once in a while, and they should be viewed in the right framework.

[Ronen] Beyond this crisis, you have often said you have not despaired of including new partners in the coalition. Do you believe you will be able to do it as long as Meretz has a veto right? They have already stated that if NRP [National Religious Party] or Tzomet join, they will quit.

[Rabin] Come on, let it be. I can live with the present coalition and achieve the government's goals. Tonight, we have only addressed the peace process and the deportee issue. We have not broached the true problem of how to achieve progress in crucial economic and social issues, which this government has pledged. This will also take slightly longer.

[Ronen] The government is almost seven months old.

[Rabin] We undertook to promote four issues: transportation infrastructure, education infrastructure, employment, and social issues. In the first field, we are investing 1,500,000,000 [currency not specified] this year, which is about 500,000,000 more than last year. We are about to set up a special committee, anchored in legislation, that will partially resolve the problem of traffic jams after it deals with Israel's bureaucracy as reflected in various planning committees. I hope this will liquidate traffic jams in places which have not been dealt with until now because of bureaucracy, because of a lack of authority to make decisions. We should not have to heed each deputy mayor, each party with an interest in halting the works and to contend with litigation by tenants who do not like the construction we are carrying out from Ramat Hasharon to the Haifa-Tel Aviv highway, for instance.

[Sukenik] These people cannot drive because of traffic jams.

[Rabin] What I am saying is that all these things can be solved. Moreover, there are vast opportunities nowadays. The whole world is lining up to invest in our railroad and in other things. We have $2,000,000,000 in guarantees which we have to use as yet. For all that, several things must change. You will see that it will not take long. There will be bids for modern trains. It may take a year, but we will get there.

The second field is human resources. We have added 370,000,000 shekels, and for the first time in 15 years schools now have more hours. Another 100,000,000 shekels has been given to universities for students, research, and development, with a pledge for an additional 100,000,000 every year.

For our war on unemployment, we have raised 760,000,000—some from the budget of the previous year and some from the current budget—for improving job opportunities.

In the welfare sphere, we have reinstated benefits for the first and second child. They will be paid to 360,000 families which were deprived of these benefits in the past. It may take longer than I thought, but Israel will change in these respects as well.

[Sukenik] Sir, my next question will also refer to trivial things, although you prefer to discuss major issues.

[Rabin] I think these are the issues that will determine Israel's future: peace and security, on the one hand, and better economic and social systems, on the other.

[Sukenik] There is a problem which the High Court of Justice has debated: delaying Professor Itamar Rabinovich's appointment as Israel's U.S. ambassador. You knew about it because he reported to you.

[Rabin] Indeed, he has reported to me.

[Sukenik] Are you aware that this is a sensitive issue? People have been forced to forfeit appointments over things like that in the United States.

[Ronen] You also resigned because of a foreign currency account.

[Sukenik] The U.S. attorney general-designate recently lost her appointment because of the two people she had employed. Having had a problem with a foreign currency account yourself and being consequently aware of the sensitivity of this issue, do you not think there is room to reconsider the appointment?

[Rabin] I had a problem, and I drew the appropriate conclusions concerning myself. I had no problem with income tax authorities. The present problem lies elsewhere. Prof. Itamar Rabinovich has indeed told me about it, and he said he was in contact with income tax authorities about it. The income tax authorities decided whatever they have. Solutions like that are customary in many countries, and I have never heard of anyone, either in the United States or elsewhere, being disqualified for public office after paying a ransom. I believe in Itamar Rabinovich; I have observed his performance as head of the Israeli delegation to negotiations with Syria, and it was outstanding. I believe he will be an excellent Israeli ambassador to the United States. He has made a mistake, but he admitted it; he did not deny it. He gave himself over to the authorities.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, after over six months of heading this government, you seem to be acting mostly alone, although you have a team of advisers at the prime minister's bureau with which the finance minister does not cooperate. The question is whether this team has proven itself, whether you consult it, whether it provides you with facts and assessments you can use in your decisionmaking.

[Rabin] I do not act alone. As prime minister, I am the first among equals with slightly—more than just slightly, indeed greater—responsibility for both the processes and the results. I work with cabinet members and believe you will see results by 1994. Judge me then.

[Ronen] Do you stand by your promise that the peace negotiations will make a breakthrough within nine to 12 months?

[Rabin] As I said, the time assessment and the partner remain in question. I stand by my statement that a breakthrough will be achieved. We must also remember that we have lost four months. The Arab approach to negotiations is that the United States extract concessions from Israel. This happened during shuttle trips and in the Camp David and peace treaty negotiations which the United States ran from the United States. They did not take the negotiations seriously starting six weeks before the U.S. elections and until two-and-a-half months after the elections. Thus, we lost about four months. Although it is taking longer than anticipated, I repeat: 1993 will be the crossroads year.

[Ronen] Our last question, Mr. Prime Minister: The Netanyahu affair has exposed Israeli statesmen's private life to an extent we had witnessed mainly in the United States. Without going into the details of the affair, which is still being investigated by police, do you think politicians' private, intimate lives should be absolutely separate from their public lives?

[Rabin] This is a silly storm in a teacup. The entire affair looks ludicrous and funny, and I am simply amazed at how seriously people are taking this ridiculous story.

[Ronen] Binyamin Netanyahu is taking it seriously, as is the Likud. It can change a lot for the Likud.

[Rabin] It seems simply ridiculous to me.

[Sukenik] Whom would you like to see winning the Likud leadership race? I do not think you will share your hopes with us.

[Rabin] I have no preferences. I cannot have preferences in a sphere in which I have no influence.

[Ronen] This is the place to conclude, Mr. Prime Minister. We thank you for coming to our studio. I thank colleagues Ehud Ya'ari and Gadi Sukenik, as well as our audience.

Court Rejects Appeal Against Rabinovich as U.S. Envoy

TA2801124193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] This morning the High Court of Justice rejected the appeal against the appointment of Professor Itamar Rabinovich as Israel's ambassador to the United States. Consequently, there is no longer any impediment against Prof. Rabinovich assuming this post. The appeal had been filed by Knesset Member Gonen Segev of Tzomet due to the tax infractions committed by Prof. Rabinovich and the decision to make him pay a penalty fine rather than put him on trial.

Peres, al-Husayni Hold 'Secret' Meeting on Talks

TA2801055893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The deportation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members created difficulties in the peace talks, but apparently secret contacts are continuing. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held a secret meeting with Faysal al-Husayni, the leader of the Palestinians in the territories, two weeks ago. This was al- Husayni's first meeting with such a senior Israeli official. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports:

A veil of secrecy hangs over this meeting. Apparently even the associates of the two personages were not aware of it. Behira Berdugo, the foreign minister's media adviser, said yesterday that she knows nothing about the meeting. She later talked with Mr. Peres, who is in Switzerland, by phone. Peres told her she behaved correctly, but did not deny the meeting itself.

Hanan 'Ashrawi, however, did deny the meeting. 'Ashrawi told our correspondent Moti Amir that such a meeting is inconceivable, because the Palestinians have decided not to hold contacts with Israel as long as the deportees are not returned.

Nevertheless, the meeting was held approximately two weeks ago at Shim'on Peres' official residence in Jerusalem. The two personages discussed the continuation of the peace talks. Mr. Peres again recommended that Faysal al-Husayni agree to elections in the territories. Al-Husayni requested of Peres that Israel return the deportees. He claimed that the deportation is creating great difficulties for the moderates in the territories. It appears, therefore, that the differences of opinion remain.

Another question is whether the prime minister was cognizant of the meeting and agreed to it. Another question is whether Faysal al-Husayni briefed Tunis about it. It was a secret and unofficial meeting, however, rather than a new channel of communications between Israel and the Palestinians.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 28 January on page A1 carries a related report by 'Aqiva Eldar, adding that "Jerusalem sources regard the meeting between Peres and al-Husayni as an expression of greater on the government's part regarding the issue of Palestinian representation, because al-Husayni is a resident of East Jerusalem."]

Prime Minister Reacts to Israeli Court Ruling

JN2801132193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the prime minister, has described the Israeli High Court ruling, in support of the Israeli Government's decision to deport Palestinian citizens from their land, as persistence in the arbitrary and unjust Israeli policy against the Palestinian Arab people.

His excellency added that this ruling is a link in the chain of unjust decisions made by the Israeli occupation authorities in violation of the international law and UN resolutions. His excellency urged the UN Security Council to assume its responsibilities and immediately work to implement Resolution 799, which calls for returning the deportees, and to force Israel to implement this resolution and submit to international legitimacy, particularly following the move undertaken by the UN secretary general to implement this resolution.

His excellency also said that the continuation of the deportation process will negatively affect the peace process and obstruct the efforts being made to achieve a comprehensive, just peace in the region. His excellency stressed the need to adopt a single standard when implementing UN Security Council resolutions and to find a mechanism to implement the UN Security Council resolution on repatriating the deportees.

Minister Departs for Debt Talks in France, UK

JN2701165693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Finance Minister Basil Jardanah left Amman today for visits to France and Britain where he will seek a rescheduling of Jordan's external debt.

According to a ministry official, during his four-day visit to France, Mr. Jardanah will discuss Jordan's economic reform program with officials of the IMF and World Bank.

During his three-day stay in Britain, the minister is to meet with officials of creditor commercial banks in the London Club to discuss the possibility of reducing and rescheduling Jordan's remaining debt.

Jordan's external debt in the region stands at around $6.5 billion.

The minister is accompanied on his trip by Michel Marto, deputy governor of the nation's Central Bank.

Talks To Begin 28 Jan

JN2801072793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28-29 Jan 93 p 1

[By staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordan and a group of 24 donor countries open talks in Paris Thursday on the Kingdom's quest to secure international assistance to plug a projected gap of about $350 million in its balance of payments in fiscal year 1993.

The Jordanian team, headed by Finance Minister Basil Jardanah, and including Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Deputy Governor Michel Marto and several senior officials, left for Paris Wednesday.

Following the three-day World Bank-organised meeting in the French capital, the delegation would proceed to London for a fresh round of negotiations with Jordan's commercial creditors grouped in the London Club on rescheduling the Kingdom's debts to banks and financial institutions.

Diplomats and officials here meanwhile discounted a report from Paris that Jordan was seeking up to $750 million from the donor countries during the meetings which begin Thursday.

"It is an unrealistic figure," said a western diplomat closely familiar with Jordan's economy restructuring in line with a programme agreed to with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"Jordan is aiming for up to $400 million in assistance, and there is no telling whether this would be met by the donor countries in direct cash aid," said the diplomat, noting that the fiscal budget of the Kingdom projected $350 million in actual shortfall in the balance of payments after expected foreign grants.

"Some of the pledges may come in the form of financing for essential development projects or even export credits which will free foreign exchange for the Kingdom to use for adjusting the balance of payment," the diplomat added. "The World Bank and the IMF approve of such an approach."

A report from Paris said that Jordan was seeking $1.5 billion in aid from donors. The report quoted sources as saying that Jordan hopes that half of it would be pledged in Paris while the other half would come in the form of rescheduled debt repayments to the Paris Club of creditor governments due after mid-1993.

Under an agreement reached last year, Jordan rescheduled debts owed to Paris Club members until mid-1993 for 15 to 20 years.

The Kingdom's total foreign debts are around $6.8 billion; about $4 billion is owed to the Paris Club, around $1.1 billion to the London Club and the rest to former East bloc countries and Arab and international funds.

At the Paris meeting, diplomats say, the success that Jordan achieved in salvaging its economy in the past four years in line with IMF guidelines and conditions, and the growth it registered, could be used against the Kingdom's quest for aid. "For all technical purposes, Jordan's economy is doing well as could be judged from the economic growth figures," noted another European diplomat. "Perhaps the strongest argument Jordan has to counter an approach that it does not really [need] help since its economy did well in 1991 and 1992 is that the growth represented expatriate savings brought in after the Gulf crisis and was a one-time shot in the arm."

The Paris meeting will bring together the group of seven industrialised countries, several European nations, Japan, the IMF and the World Bank as well as various Arab funds and international agencies.

Despite conflicting arguments, diplomats as well as local analysts believe Jordan will not face a real problem in Paris to raise the sought-for $350 million.

Mr. Jardanah's talks with the London Club follow the submission of a new Jordanian proposal for settling rescheduling the Kingdom's commercial debts.

After several rounds of talks and exchange of proposals, Jordan is holding out for better-than-offered terms from the London Club.

Few details are available on the new proposal Jordan has forwarded to the commercial creditors, but it is known to involve debt conversion into investments and holdings in Jordanian dinars, partial write-off interest and partial debt buy-back at discounted terms.

Arms Collection Delayed Pending Completion of Study

JN2701192693 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has announced that the collection of citizens' firearms has been put off pending the completion of a joint study by the government and the House of Representatives Administrative Committee.

The prime minister's announcement was made during a House session convened today under Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat. [passage omitted]

Interior Ministry Legalizes 10th Political Party

JN2801073693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28-29 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Progress and Justice Party (PJP), Wednesday became the tenth political group to be legalised in Jordan.

In a statement to the press, the party's temporary chairman Zayd Hamzah said he had received official notification of his party's legalisation from Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul, and he was seizing the opportunity to emphasise the party's determination and pledge to work towards the attainment of the Kingdom's national aspirations.

He said the party pledges renewed allegiance to His Majesty King Husayn and will adhere closely to the provisions of the National charter and political pluralism.

Last Sunday, the government legalised the Jordan People's Democratic party (JPDP), the fourth leftist party to be legalised.

The three others are the Jordan Democratic Progressive Party, the Jordan Communist Party, and the Jordan Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The government earlier legalised the Jordan National Alliance Group, the Popular Union Party, the Pledge Party, the Future Party and the Islamic Action Front.

In its manifesto, the Progress and Justice Party pledged to work for national unity, uphold institutions under the rule of law, serve in the light of the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, contribute towards the advancement of the status of women in society, and help society's members attain equal opportunities.

Applications from two other political groups seeking legal status are pending a decision by the Ministry of Interior.

Birri Meets President, Sees Need To Avoid UNIFIL Reduction

NC2701140693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Excerpt] In their weekly meeting today, President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber Speaker Nabih Birri discussed various developments. Birri briefed the president on his recent trip to Iran. At around 1145, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri joined the meeting and at 1245, Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr joined the three leaders. Following the meeting, which ended at 1315, Birri said the discussion focused on renewing the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] mandate. He said the three leaders agreed on the need to hold the necessary contacts to avoid a troop reduction in UNIFIL. He said that what is needed is to implement UN Resolution 425, not to turn UN Resolution 799 into a tragicomedy, distracting us from implementing Resolution 425. While denying any discord among the three leaders over administrative appointments, Birri said there are some differences in views but the three leaders agree on this issue. He said no setbacks will be allowed and reiterated Prime Minister al-Hariri's emphasis on no turning back. He said appointments were not discussed during today's meeting. Birri added:

[Begin Birri recording] It was a routine meeting during which I briefed his excellency the president on my visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. We exchanged views on domestic issues and held an in-depth and lengthy discussion. We did the same later in the presence of the prime minister on the question of renewing the UNIFIL mandate. Judging by a statement by [UNIFIL Spokesman] Goksel yesterday, it seems there will be a 10 percent—perhaps more, I don't know—troop reduction in UNIFIL. It was agreed with the president and the prime minister to hold the necessary contacts with the UN secretary general and other officials and to instruct our diplomatic representatives to avoid any reduction. What is required is to implement Resolution 425 and to take advantage of renewing the UNIFIL mandate to push for a mechanism to implement Resolution 425, not otherwise. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Deportees Begin Hunger Strike, al-Rantisi Urges 'Pressure'

NC2801075593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The Palestinian people unlawfully deported from their homes began a hunger strike today to protest the Zionist occupation authorities' brutal practices in the occupied territories.

Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the deportees, has urged Arab countries to pile on every possible pressure to make Israel submit to international legitimacy and implement Resolution 799.

The deportees yesterday split into groups to collect wood and water and positioned stones to illustrate the UN resolution. The camp doctor, 'Umar Farawinah, announced 22 cases suffering from the cold.

Israelis Reinforce Zummarayya Post; al-Biqa' Shelled 27 Jan

NC2801083193 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Zionist occupation forces have reinforced their position on Zummarayya Hill, where they pitched three large tents inside the post and on its southern road, set up observation towers and floodlights, and brought in five armored vehicles.

Three bulldozers erected new earth barricades on the northern edge of Zummarayya post and dug a 700-meter trench.

In another development yesterday, occupation forces artillery in Ibil al-Saqi shelled Jabal Abu Rashid and Birkat Jabbur in western al-Biqa' and fired flares over areas near the occupied strip north of Kawkaba.

Defense Minister on 'Grave Consequences' of U.S. Using Veto

NC2801111493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1023 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Beirut, 28 Jan (MENA)—Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has stated that the Israeli Supreme Court's decision upholding the legitimacy of the deportation of Palestinians was not surprising and will not affect the position of the Lebanese Government on the deportees. The Lebanese Government, he added, does not base its unwavering position on Israeli reactions or a court ruling that makes no difference.

Dallul said Israel is not going to retreat from its intransigent position through court rulings, but through the application of concerted international pressure and the UN Security Council's imposition of sanctions against it in connection with Resolution 799 calling for the return of deportees.

Dallul said the UN Security Council is now responsible for implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy against Israel.

The Lebanese defense minister told MENA that the United States' use of veto against a draft UN Security Council resolution seeking to force Israel to implement UN resolutions would be tantamount to preventing the international community from implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy. Such a veto will have a grave and negative impact on Arab-U.S. relations and will directly affect the Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks.

Minister Dallul wondered how the United States could consider itself a cosponsor of the peace conference and bilateral relations when it assumes a stand of complete and flagrant bias toward Israel.

Dallul said the Arabs must reconsider their position toward the United States if it uses its right of veto at a time when it uses its planes and missiles against the Arabs and Muslims. He described the U.S. position supporting Israel as one causing humiliation and indignity for all the Arabs.

The Lebanese defense minister said he believes that the United States knows that any support given to Israel in its defiance of the UN resolution will antagonize the Arabs and have grave consequences for U.S.-Arab relations.

PRC Envoy Comments on Deportation; al-Rantisi Not To Appeal

NC2801120693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] After a meeting with the foreign minister today, the Chinese ambassador called for the immediate implementation of Resolution 799. He said his country is opposed to the deportation because it violates international laws, and it calls for the return of the deportees to their country.

'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the deportees, said the Israeli High Court's upholding of the deportation's legality puts the United Nations' dignity to the test. He added that the Security Council should either bring about justice and implement its resolution or lose its dignity forever.

He reiterated his refusal to submit individual appeals against the ruling and asked anyone who has already forwarded such a request to withdraw it so that it will not constitute recognition of the high court's ruling.

Minister Insists Palestinians Must Return

PM2701171593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jan 93 p 6

[Interview with Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Qulaybi] How do you assess the current security situation in Lebanon? Could it be said that the security pockets which had not been subject to the state's authority have now been eliminated?

[Mirhij] We have taken important steps to consolidate security in various areas of Lebanon. There is a strong state authority presence in those areas where there is steady work to further enhance the state's authority and pursue outlaws. There has been no real obstacle in the way of that work. What makes these efforts effective is the highest degree of coordination between the various security organs and the Lebanese Army. Furthermore, the Syrian Arab forces are committed to the state's plan to establish security and stability in Lebanon. They are providing every possible assistance. A recent experiment has resulted in the arrest of a large number of criminals and the seizure of stolen cars, arms, and drugs. So, it can be said that the security atmosphere in Lebanon is now positive and suitable for a shift to more advanced and comprehensive phases.

[Al-Qulaybi] How successful have the Lebanese security authorities been in implementing the security plan in the [Beirut] suburbs?

[Mirhij] First of all, there has been no security vacuum in the southern suburbs. The state has police posts there discharging their duties and shouldering their responsibilities in accordance with the current Lebanese laws.

As you know, the Lebanese Army had a number of posts in that suburb, but it then reduced its presence there because it was concentrating its forces in southern Lebanon in line with the plan for the Lebanese Army to deploy in the south to fill the security vacuum there and defend the people and the territory against repeated Israeli aggressions. So the Lebanese authorities have not been absent from the suburbs. The redeployment of the army and the security forces in the southern suburbs again was a natural move by the government and was in implementation of the cabinet decision to establish legitimate security in a responsible and integrated way in all Lebanese territories including, of course, the southern suburbs of Beirut and other areas.

[Al-Qulaybi] Have all the heavy and other weapons that were in the possession of the fighters and the militias now been withdrawn, and is it true that Hizballah has moved its weapons to the al-Biqa' region?

[Mirhij] Lebanese Government forces have implemented the decision under which all the Lebanese parties had to hand over all their heavy and medium weapons. Possession of such arms is now illegal and subject to legal and military prosecution. In the recent security operation, the authorities confiscated some heavy and medium weapons, arrested the owners, and referred them to the courts.

[Al-Qulaybi] According to some reports, Lebanese prisons are now full of detainees and some excesses are being committed. Is that true?

[Mirhij] We do indeed have a crisis in that respect. The number of detainees is far greater than the prisons' capacity. This matter is now being dealt with, but we cannot release these outlaws. It is better to have them in uncomfortable places than to set them free among innocent people and out of justice's reach.

[Al-Qulaybi] How many of these detainees are there?

[Mirhij] I cannot give a final figure now because the search for "outlaws" is continuing and is not over yet, but I can confirm that these detainees do not include any political prisoners.

[Al-Qulaybi] But do you not fear the possible reaction of human rights circles and Amnesty International to the situation in Lebanese prisons?

[Mirhij] We take that into consideration, but Lebanon is passing through exceptional circumstances. It cares about human rights and about democracy. As I said, there is no detainee in Lebanon now held because of his views or political stance. We in Lebanon have not neglected this issue and are trying to improve the situation.

[Al-Qulaybi] How do you view the political and partisan situation in Lebanon?

[Mirhij] I believe that with the return of peace and stability to Lebanon, partisan life will assume a peaceful and democratic nature where it previously assumed a military character. The current regime is a democratic regime which ensures public freedoms including freedom of political, informational, and cultural activity within the law. Political activity is now flourishing and papers and magazines are published normally and extensively.

[Al-Qulaybi] Could all the Lebanese political refugees return to Lebanon in normal circumstances?

[Mirhij] There is no legal or political reason to prevent the return of any Lebanese to his homeland. Our gates are open to all Lebanese. That is the pledge made by the current government.

[Al-Qulaybi] Does that also apply to [National Bloc Leader] Raymond Iddih?

[Mirhij] Certainly. Raymond Iddih can return to his country at any time and enjoy complete freedom. His house is still there and is guarded by the security forces.

[Al-Qulaybi] Do you believe that the issue of the Palestinian detainees will affect the security situation in Lebanon and the peace negotiations?

[Mirhij] There can be no doubt that this issue will have negative repercussions on security in Lebanon. Our position on it is united and unanimously supported by all the Lebanese people and the government. It is clearly and unquestionably an Israeli responsibility.

We have taken the stand dictated by our national conscience, a stand that also responds to Palestinian and Arab interests. That Lebanese stand has embarrassed and surprised Israel and exposed its inhumane and illegal posture to the whole world.

The responsibility here revolves around a decision made by Israel in violation of the fourth Geneva convention and the simplest international laws and regulations. Israel must rescind its decision and the Palestinian deportees must return to their homes. Lebanon's position on this matter is the same as that of the people expelled from their land. I say that anything is now possible and Israel must bear the responsibility.

Al-Rantisi's 'First Comment' on Court Ruling Cited

NC2801092693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] In a first comment on the Israeli High Court of Justice ruling upholding the legality of the deportation of Palestinians, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, the deportees' spokesman, (?described) the Israeli magistrates as terrorists. He said the deportees expected the Israeli High Court to hand down this verdict and cautioned the world to declare who enjoys higher authority: Yitzhaq Rabin and his High Court or the UN Security Council.

Deportees' Spokesmen Challenge UN To 'Prove Authority'

NC2801090093 Paris AFP in English 0840 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Marj al-Zuhur, Jan 28 (AFP)—The Palestinian deportees said Thursday [28 January] they had expected the Israeli Supreme Court to uphold their expulsions and that the United Nations must now prove its authority.

"We weren't surprised by the decision," said 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, the spokesman for some 400 Palestinian fundamentalist suspects expelled by Israel to Lebanon on December 17.

"Rabin is a man of terrorism and the Supreme Court judges are terrorists," he said at their camp in no man's land here.

"The world must now decide which is the highest global authority, the Israeli Supreme Court, Rabin or the United Nations," said al-Rantisi, a leader of the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] group.

He said the decision was "an attack on Arab honour" and called on Arabs and Muslims to "rise up against Israeli arrogance."

The United Nations has ordered Israel to take back the men trapped between the Lebanese and Israeli armies.

On Tuesday U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali called for "whatever measures are required" to force Israel to comply with Security Council Resolution 799 passed on December 18.

Another spokesman for the deportees, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami of the radical Islamic Jihad group, said: "We will respond to this aggression when the time is right."

Israel says the deportees belong to Hamas and the Islamic Jihad and were expelled after Hamas abducted and killed an Israeli border police last month.

Al-Shar' on Syria's Conditions To Join Multilaterals

JN2801060993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has made statements to REUTER in which he said that Syria is prepared to study participation in the multilateral talks if Israel withdraws completely from the Golan Heights.

Al-Shar' said: Regional cooperation will have a meaning when we regain our territory in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. This would make peace durable, comprehensive, and stable.

Asked about Israel's argument that it will not discuss the extent of its withdrawal from the Golan Heights unless Syria specifies the nature of peace, the foreign minister said: Security Council Resolution 242, issued after the 1967 war, and Resolution 338, issued after the 1973 war, stipulate Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

He added: Israel's interpretation of withdrawal must agree with Resolution 242, which states the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. Leaving any part of the Golan Heights under occupation would devastate this principle.

Al-Shar' added: Israel's repeated demand to know in advance the nature of Syria's concept of peace is only a maneuver, because it realizes that the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 will lead to Syria's participation in the multilateral talks on regional cooperation.

Since the start of the current U.S. sponsored peace process, which opened in Madrid in October 1991, Syria has maintained that it will attend the multilateral talks when the bilateral peace talks achieve tangible and substantive progress.

The foreign minister added: I believe that any rational and logical person will be convinced that Syria is serious about the peace process.

Al-Shar' said: Any peace arrangements that go beyond the requirements of Resolutions 242 and 338 and the international law must be in conformity with the Syrian Arab people's national dignity.

The foreign minister said: The Golan Heights are very important for us, both as a territory and a symbol of national dignity. Regaining the Golan Heights through the peace process will make the Syrian people feel they have achieved an honorable peace.

Asked about the meeting of the foreign ministers of the front line states [duwal al-muwajahah] in Damascus, al-Shar' said: The date for the meeting will be set in the light of the UN Security Council deliberations on the Palestinian deportees, and in the light of an announcement by new U.S. President Clinton's administration regarding its official commitment to the peace process which was started by former President Bush's administration.

UN Report Urging Sanctions on Israel Hailed

JN2701135993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Jan 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Today's issue of the newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the report submitted by the UN secretary general to the Security Council members, recommending the adoption of all necessary measures to force Israeli compliance with Resolution 799. AL-BA'TH regards this report as an acceptable, but not sufficient step which should be coupled with practical measures that force Israel to implement the resolution demanding the repatriation of the deportees. Such measures can begin with the imposition of all types of sanctions in accordance with the Security Council jurisdictions.

AL-BA'TH adds: Although small, this step has prompted Rabin to launch a vehement attack and to view any Security Council condemnation of Israel as a threat to the peace process. The paper affirms that what calls for astonishment in this regard is that the U.S. Administration still supports the Israeli stand despite all declared affirmations concerning its commitment to the peace process and to advancing it. Hence, the continuation of double standards cannot pave the way for the revival of the peace process, which has stumbled throughout the past eight rounds.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The need to impose sanctions on Israel, even for once, is not only an Arab demand; it is rather an international demand by all world states, expressed through their support for the deportees' issue and their condemnation of the crime of uprooting them from their land. Undoubtedly, such a measure will give some credibility to international legitimacy and put an end to the privileges given to Israel, which is behaving outside the framework of legitimacy, as if its anti-peace policy should not be harmed.

The newspaper TISHRIN says: Today, the ball is in the Security Council's court after the UN secretary general has recommended that all necessary measures be taken against Israel to repatriate the Palestinian deportees. The secretary general of the United Nations, the highest international body, also called for setting up a special committee to monitor the situation in the occupied Arab territories which are witnessing serious violations of the Geneva Convention.

TISHRIN notes with astonishment the Israeli stand which criticizes the United Nations and accuses it of jeopardizing the peace talks and of using double standards. The paper adds: What is surprising is that the Israeli rulers are accusing the United Nations of using double standards because it refuses to remain silent over the crime of uprooting hundreds of Palestinians from their land and dumping them in the open, and because the United Nations, unlike its behavior over the past 40 years, refuses to yield to Israel's violation of international charters and principles and its defiance of Security Council Resolution 799.

TISHRIN adds: The Israeli rulers' claims that the Security Council's intervention to implement its resolution and impose sanctions on the violators of international will will adversely affect the peace process are strange. The question is: Has Israel ever taken a single step toward peace, or has it ever declared its readiness to exchange land for peace and withdraw from the occupied Arab territories?

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The Security Council's warning to Israel that it should yield to the international will or expect deterrent sanctions greatly contribute to the promotion of the peace process. This will make the Israeli rulers realize that their 40-year rebellion is over and that there is no alternative to submitting to the Security Council resolutions and pursuing a genuine peace in the Middle East.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH expects the UN Security Council to begin its postponed debate of the Palestinian deportees' issue today in the wake of the failure of the UN secretary general's envoys to solve this problem. The paper adds: Whoever follows the heated Zionist campaign, the mounting hysterical statements against the United Nations, and the abuses and accusations accompanying the threats by Rabin and his government to stop the peace process if the Security Council adopts sanctions against Israel, can note the impasse in which Israel has placed itself against the world.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that this is not the first time Israel defies the international community and the Security Council. However, Israel has always managed to escape from the consequences of its aggressive policy, thanks to the protection by its influential friends and allies. With its current defiance and maneuvers to contain Resolution 799, Israel is counting only on the support of its friends and allies, particularly by the United States. The United States has always been biased toward Israel. It used the right of veto to abort the UN resolutions on the Middle East conflict, rendering them mere ink on paper.

AL-THAWRAH wonders: Is Resolution 799 and the insistence on its implementation by the international community, represented by the UN secretary general, a positive sign of a radical, effective shift in the course of the United Nations and its bodies, as well as a sign of its liberation from the yoke of hegemony and domination toward a successful handling and resolution of this region's issues? Will it be the beginning of a new era for the new U.S. Administration and for relinquishing the policy of prejudice?

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: We greatly hope that the statements made by the U.S. ambassador in Tel Aviv are not a reflection of the official foreign policy of Clinton's administration. A veto will not be in the interest of peace, nor will it be in the interest of the United States or anyone in the world.

'Strong' UN Resolution Against Israel Urged

JN2801101093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Jan 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In an article entitled "The Expected Resolution," AL-THAWRAH notes the fact that the UN Security Council has for a long time turned a blind eye to Israel's constant violations of international laws and agreements.

The paper says: The UN Security Council has been showing unjustified tolerance toward Israel's excessive defiance of its authority and resolutions. This fact has given rise to a general feeling that the UN Security Council, under the influence of certain influential states, is appeasing Israel and not playing the required role to prevent it from continuing with the policy of arrogance and aggression.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that what has strengthened that feeling is that the UN Security Council has not acted in accordance with just and balanced standards when dealing with regional issues. In certain cases, it only needed only a few hours to adopt binding resolutions which have to be implemented. But when the matter concerns Israel, the influential states fabricate pretexts and excuses and try to pass lenient resolutions with sentences that lack any implication of a deterring forceful measure.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The UN secretary general's recommendation to impose sanctions on Israel if it does not implement Resolution 799 provides a serious test for the credibility of the UN Security Council in adopting single standards when applying its resolutions.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: This recommendation should receive all attention and care, and must materialize in the form of a decisive and strong resolution to protect the prestige of the United Nations and restore confidence in it as a world body capable of ending injustice, regardless of its shape and source, and with enough means to right wrongs and strike at any one who may be tempted to defy international laws and tamper with the security and rights of others.

Change in U.S. Stand Urged To Save Peace Process

JN2601091493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Jan 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH discusses Israel's intransigence toward the peace process and its refusal to implement UN resolutions. It speaks about enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's repeated refusal to change his government's policy toward the peace process. AL-BA'TH affirms that Rabin poses a greater danger to the peace process than Shamir because Rabin constantly talks about peace and the need for peace while at the same time he is actually working by all means against achieving any progress toward the desired peace.

AL-BA'TH adds: Although Rabin's policy has been exposed, we still note that some powers continue to sympathize with the Israeli policy. These powers should at least be neutral at this particular time, especially since they are assuming a major, primary responsibility toward the peace process. The paper says: If the U.S. stands remain unchanged, a painful, if not deadly, blow will undoubtedly be dealt to the peace process—a process which the world views as a rare, or perhaps the last, opportunity to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

AL-BA'TH notes that the current U.S. Administration obstructed a Security Council meeting designed to take appropriate measures that would force Israel to implement Resolution 799 and repatriate the deportees. The paper asserts that this obstruction was in response to Israel's desire, not Washington's.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: What the Arabs want from the new U.S. Administration is that its stands should in practice be in harmony with UN resolutions and international legitimacy in order to achieve a just peace. The U.S. Administration should also abandon the policies that encourage Israel to continue its defiance of the international community, particularly the Security Council, and to pursue the policy of aggression and expansion at the expense of the Arabs.

U.S. Asked To Abandon 'Blind Support' for Israel

JN2701173593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: As expected, Israel has resorted to the U.S. Administration in a bid to impede or even paralyze international will, and to cancel or slow down the UN Security Council's effectiveness in forcing Israel to yield to its resolutions after Israel has exhausted all opportunities, means, tricks, and maneuvers to circumvent this will and the Security Council resolution calling for the cancellation of the deportation decision.

By requesting that the U.S. Administration play this role, Israel has relied on its large asset inside this administration and on a long history over the past 40 years of defying the resolutions of international legitimacy, fortified by U.S. protection of all Israeli breaches of international law. What is coming out of Washington these days suggests some sort of favorable U.S. response to this latest Israeli desire. Spokesmen in the U.S. capital expressed such a response in the form of a call for exhausting available diplomatic options—as if they had not yet been exhausted after three futile missions by UN envoys—and for waiting to see how the Israeli court rules on the deportee issue before resorting to the Security Council to put an end to Israeli intransigence.

Given such a situation, where international will is obstructed, albeit temporarily, by an Israeli desire counting on U.S. influence, and since the deportees' situation remains unchanged in the face of misery, agony, and bitter suffering, one wonders whether the Arab states, particularly those who have good relations with the United States, can convince Washington to not delay or impede the general trend seeking a quick solution to the issue of the deportees and their repatriation. It is illogical for the Arabs to remain silent and refrain from doing anything in support of those who were unjustly and aggressively uprooted from their land at a time when Israel continues to move in all directions, relying on its alliance with Washington, to prevent the ending of the injustice done to the deportees.

We have noted pressure by various world parties on Israel to oblige it to submit to the will of international legitimacy. UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, who was not spared Yitzhaq Rabin's curses, embarked on a daring stand by calling on the Security Council to adopt effective measures compelling Israel to repatriate the deportees. Israel is working to circumvent this pressure and the UN efforts, seeking the help of U.S. influence and power. Are the Arabs, in turn, incapable of making an effective move by which they can remind Washington that its role in the Middle East dictates that it not be biased toward Israel nor defend its belligerence, intransigence, and violation of all international norms and laws? Are they incapable of making a move that draws the attention of the new U.S. Administration to the fact that its continued support for Israel's falsehood will certainly reflect negatively on its credibility in the eyes of Arab public opinion and on the U.S. role as a fair mediator in the peace process?

We do not accuse Washington of fully supporting Israel's internationally rejected stand on the deportee issue, but we are of the view that there should be an Arab move to notify the U.S. Administration during its first days in power that if it really wants to contribute to the achievement of peace in this region, it should undertake initiatives outside the framework of mimicking the policy of blind support for Israel's practices. Foremost among such initiatives would perhaps be the need to avoid standing against international will on the deportee issue, and to exercise U.S. influence on Israel to make it submit to this will and to push it along the path of international legitimacy.

Such a stand befits a state that claims to be leading the world toward a more just and secure new world order. This will certainly be better than making the world see this leading state submitting to the influence of the pro-Israel lobby in the United States.

'Balanced' U.S. Position in Middle East Urged

JN2801082293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Jan 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH today discusses Clinton's administration and the U.S.-Arab relations. It observes the absence of balance in the U.S. position on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the traditional U.S. bias, which borders on blind drift behind Israel against the rights of the Arabs, and, often, against the international charters, laws, and ethics. The United States, the paper says, puts its weight against the United Nations and its Charter and resolutions to protect Israel's violations and defiance of the resolutions of the world community.

AL-BA'TH asserts the need for a balanced U.S. position. It also asserts the Arabs' right to ask the United States to respect the values and morals stipulated in its own Constitution which completely contradict the Israeli rulers' conduct.

AL-BA'TH also discusses the Middle East peace process. It says: The Arabs have responded to the new international trend to resolve regional conflicts and eliminate the hotbeds of tension. They have cooperated with the peace efforts and offered all they can to boost the peace process that was launched by the former U.S. Administration.

AL-BA'TH says: Despite the Arabs' honoring of requirements of the solution and settlement on the basis of the principles of the U.S. initiative, no progress toward peace has been achieved. The peace process remained inactive and subject to total collapse in view of the Israeli repeated strikes that aim at suppressing it.

AL-BA'TH urges the new U.S. President to preserve the U.S. Administrations' credibility and to continue with the U.S. policy and commitments toward the Middle East. This means, the paper says, that he should preserve the peace process, which the former U.S. Administration has launched and which was agreed upon between the representatives of the U.S. Administration and the parties concerned with the peace process.

AL-BA'TH says: It is known that Syria helped to start the peace process. It has also opened the door for that process and helped to advance it toward the desired end. We, as President Hafiz al-Asad has said, are prepared to continue to work and cooperate for the sake of a just and comprehensive peace based on the principles of the UN Charter and resolutions.

Minister Talas Receives Yemeni Delegation

JN2501210793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, this afternoon received Colonel 'Ali Sa'id 'Ubayd, deputy chief of staff of the Yemeni Army, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by the chief of the training staff.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations and mutual interests between the two sisterly armies and ways to promote them.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Forces Pushed Back South of Kabul

LD2701154693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Following their mopping-up operations the forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan carried out artillery and aerial bombardments today also. Discord among the ranks of Golboddin [Hekmatyar] forces has been intensified.

A responsible sources of the Ministry of Defense said to the Bakhtar Information Agency [BIA] correspondent that the agitating Golboddin forces who had attempted to advance from the southwest were confronted with strong resistance by the military forces of the Islamic State and thus their advance was stopped. As a result of counterattacks by the Islamic State forces the positions of the enemy were bombed and subjected to artillery shells; thus their attack was foiled. As a result of the counterattack by the Islamic State forces the enemy forces were pushed back from the Chehelsotun areas and the hills around Chehelsotun. The enemy is now pushed back in the direction of the Khayrabad hills and they have totally lost their morale.

The source added that as a result of this clearing-up operation several heavy weapon depots of the enemy were destroyed and their positions were eliminated. The enemy have been defeated continuously in the southeastern direction and one of their BM-40 heavy weapons was seized by the forces of the Islamic State.

The source of the Ministry of Defense added that most of the commanders of the Islamic Party are now standing up against the leadership of the Golboddin warmongering [word indistinct] and they are now supporting the end of fighting and bloodshed. They do not want to fight their mojahed brothers. They want unity among the Muslim people and mojahed nation of Afghanistan. They have asked for the solution of all issues by talks and understanding. At this very moment a number of the Golboddin commanders are refraining from fighting against the military forces of the Islamic State and their mojahed brethren.

The agitating forces of Golboddin carried out rocket attack today at Kabul city. As a result of the landing of rockets on a number of houses, a number of our innocent compatriots were martyred and a number were injured. Losses were also inflicted on residential houses and institutions. As a result of the recent rocket attack on Kabul city by the forces of Golboddin, in addition to heavy losses of life and material which were inflicted on our compatriots, a number of holy places and public welfare institutions were also hit. A source of [words indistinct] said to the BIA military section that one of the rockets fired from the southwestern direction of Kabul hit the [Shiite] central religious center of Esmaelia in Taymani [region of Kabul]. Another one hit a communal mosque located in Shashdarak. The Shahdarak mosque was wholly destroyed and the Esmaelia mosque was damaged. This inhumane and anti-Islamic action was condemned by the imams of the Shashdarak communal mosque and Esmaelia religious center, and this action has aroused the hatred of the faithful and Muslim people.

Value of Negotiations With Hekmatyar Doubted

LD2501195193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Commentary by BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's [BIA] political commentator]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. A full week has elapsed since the Islamic Army started its mopping-up operations around Kabul. One of the main reasons why the Islamic Army engaged in the operation was that cowardly missile attacks were being launched by the Golboddin [Hekmatyar] rebels from the south and southwest of the city against innocent civilians and at state and military centers in Kabul. These attacks were stepped up so much that the Islamic State was obliged to start mopping-up operations against those regions from which the missile attacks were being launched, especially after the successful convocation of the Resolution and Settlement Council.

Through its courage and bravery, the Islamic Army has achieved great successes in eliminating Golboddin [Hekmatyar's] heavy weapons centers and his domination over strategic regions. The question of negotiating an end to the present clashes now arises.

The BIA political commentator writes in this regard: This is the third time since the formation of the Islamic state that Golboddin's party has with extreme cruelty mercilessly rained missiles on innocent Muslim Kabul citizens. It has shed the blood of our Muslim and mojahed compatriots and has inflicted billions of afghanis worth of damage on our country's economy and heritage. Both before and after the convocation of the Reconciliation and Settlement Council, it was Golboddin's rebel forces who persisted in firing rockets at residential areas and state establishments. Like a lunatic, he continues to kill innocent civilians who are his own compatriots.

Voices are now calling for mediation and a cease-fire. But the question arises: Why were these voices silent when innocent Kabul citizens were losing their lives under Golboddin's blind missiles? Why was the need for mediation not felt then?

There is no doubt that our faithful and mojahed nation respects such eminent personalities as the king of Saudi Arabia, who was unstinting in his assistance and cooperation during our great jihad, as well as other faithful personalities, and that it has always approved of mediation and negotiations. However, we look with doubt on present efforts [words indistinct], because in the recent past such efforts achieved nothing but a temporary peace and broken cease-fires. After a few weeks, the opposition resorted to military pressure, threats, and pretexts.

There is no doubt that every political measure has (?opponents), and this is a matter which the Islamic State of Afghanistan has fully accepted and has put forward its position in this regard. For example, esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, our country's president, openly stated this during his policy statement to the Reconciliation and Settlement Council.

On the other hand, although our state has considerably increased its military strength in a very short period by reorganizing the Islamic Army and the present operations show that the state is capable of responding decisively to every military pressure, the state has also kept open the doors to understanding and negotiations, and prefers to face its opponents on the political front rather than on the battlefield.

Our Islamic state still respects all peace-seeking efforts. It believes, however, that such efforts should provide an absolute guarantee of lasting peace in the country.

Now that the Islamic state has been elected by the Reconciliation and Settlement Council and has complete national legality and international credibility, it is necessary for all groups to hand over all heavy weapons to the state before anything else and to incorporate their military organizations with the structures of the Defense Ministry and the Islamic Army. Thus, political opposition would not be expressed by resorting to guns and missiles, and the innocent people of Kabul would not be further subjected to military threat and pressure. Success comes from God.

Rabbani Issues Decree on Protection of Private Property

LD2701174793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] The press office of the Presidency of the Islamic State of Afghanistan reported that esteemed Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, issued the following decree on the prevention of the willful possession of private real property and assets beyond the provision of the law:

In accordance with the Shariah of the sacred religion of Islam, the laws of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the presidency of the Islamic State of Afghanistan has issued the following decree:

Article 1: Individuals, government organs, mixed government, and private enterprises cannot under any circumstances acquire possession of subjects' immovable property and assets belonging to real or private persons outside the provision of the law.

Article 2: Those who violate the provision embodied in Article 1 will be prosecuted and punished in accordance with the Shariah provisions and laws of the country.

Article 3: This decree comes into force from the date of its issuing and will be published in the Official Gazette.

Rabbani Sends Congratulations to Indian President

LD2501205793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Message of congratulations by Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani to Indian President S. D. Sharma, on the ocassion of the 43rd anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of India—read by announcer]

[Text] I would like to present cordial congratulations to Your Excellency and through you to the Government and the people of the Republic of India on behalf of myself and the Islamic State and the people of Afghanistan on the ocassion of the 43rd anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of India. I am fully confident that the present friendly relations between our countries will further expand in the interest of the two countries and in the interest of peace and security in the region. Taking the opportunity, I express my best wishes for your health and the prosperity and further progress of the friendly people of India.

[Signed] Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani, President of the Islamic State of Afghanistan

Bangladesh

Accord With Burma To Expedite Refugee Repatriation

BK2801024693 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Bangladesh and Burma have reached an understanding to expedite the repatriation of the Rohingya refugees. The agreement was signed at a meeting between the two governments held at the local Circuit House in Cox's Bazaar yesterday. The commissioner of the Chittagong Division led the 10-member Bangladesh team while the nine-member Burmese team was headed by the director general of the Immigration Department. After the meeting, the division commissioner told newsmen that the two sides have agreed to resume the next repatriation within three or four days. He said this repatriation will take place in presence of the representatives of the UN High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR] who will report to the officials of the UNHCR in this regard. The Burmese authorities have also agreed that a journalist team from Bangladesh will be allowed to visit Arakan regularly so that they can have talks with the repatriated persons. In yesterday's meeting the Bangladesh side handed over a fresh list of 15,754 refugees and Burmese authorities have given fresh clearance to over 12,000 refugees.

Opposition Leader Admits Rival Group Clashes

BK2601020493 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Addressing a news conference in Chittagong yesterday, the leader of the opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament], Sheikh Hasina, admitted that there were clashes between rival groups of her party [words indistinct] public meeting on Sunday. The Awami League chief demanded a proper inquiry into the incident.

Foreign Minister, UN Chief Discuss Rohingya Refugees

BK2701131493 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has appreciated the steps taken by Bangladesh to resolve the Rohingya refugee problem. Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman of Bangladesh held a meeting with the UN secretary general at UN headquarters in New York yesterday. They discussed international issues including the UN peace efforts in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Somalia, and Mozambique. The secretary general lauded Bangladesh's effective role in a number of UN peace efforts and hoped that such cooperation between the United Nations and Bangladesh will continue. The Bangladeshi foreign minister apprised the secretary general of the latest situation regarding the refugee repatriation and thanked him for his deep personal interest in it. The secretary general assured all possible UN assistance in this regard.

India

Russia's Yeltsin Arrives in New Delhi

BK2701155693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] The Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, arrived in New Delhi a short while ago on a three-day state visit to India. He was received at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, the Russian ambassador, and others. Mr. Yeltsin is accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising the ministers for defense, foreign affairs, economic relations, and security.

Talking to newsmen on arrival, Mr. Yeltsin said he is very glad to visit the sacred land of India. He expressed the hope that ensuing talks with Indian leaders will eliminate the obstacles in the economic relations between the two countries. He said India, China, and Asia have a great role to play in international affairs. The Russian president hoped that the visit will further expand cooperation with India.

The Russian president will have a hectic schedule after the ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] tomorrow morning. Soon after calling on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, Mr. Yeltsin will have talks with the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, followed by official-level discussions. Several agreements, including a treaty of friendship and cooperation between India and Russia are to be signed by both sides. Top on the agenda is also the pending rupee-ruble exchange rate issue. Both leaders are also likely to pick up threads from ongoing discussions at different levels on the restructuring of Indo-Russian relations in the newly emerging situation. Mr. Yeltsin will interact with Indian businessmen and industrialists, members of parliament, and leaders of some political parties.

Before his departure for Delhi, Mr. Boris Yeltsin said in Moscow that Russia wanted the rupee-ruble exchange rate which existed on 1 November 1990 to be the basis for debt settlement with India. Mr. Yeltsin said he hoped to resolve the problem during his meeting with the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao. The Russian president also said measures to restore oil supplies to the level which existed before the breakup of the Soviet Union are being considered. Russia supplied only .6 million tons of crude oil to India last year instead of the planned 4 million tons.

Ceremonial Welcome

BK2801051793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, has expressed confidence that the obstacles in his country's economic relations with India will be removed during his talks in New Delhi. Talking to newsmen at the airport soon after his arrival in New Delhi yesterday, he said that his three-day state visit will help further expand cooperation between the two countries. He said India, China, and Russia have a major role to play in international relations and he is happy to visit the sacred land of India. Asked whether military issues will be discussed, Mr. Yeltsin said that his defense minister has come with him for that purpose only. Mr. Yeltsin was received by the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, the Russian ambassador, and others. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising the ministers for defense, foreign affairs, economic relations, and security.

The Russian president was given a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this morning. He will call on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and will have talks with the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, followed by official discussions. Several agreements including a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries are to be signed during his visit. Top on the agenda is the pending rupee-ruble exchange rate, supply of military spares, and other issues. He will also interact with the Indian businessmen and industrialists, members of parliament, and leaders of some political parties before leaving for home tomorrow.

Support on Kashmir Issue Promised

BK2801120093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The Russian President, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, says the rupee-ruble exchange rate issue has been sorted out with India. He was addressing in New Delhi this afternoon a joint meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Confederation of Indian Industry.

Mr. Yeltsin said New Delhi and Moscow have evolved a three-way formula to ensure regular supply of defense spares from Russia to India. The Russian president invited Indian industrialists to participate in the trade to achieve $2.5 billion taget by the end of next year. He expressed the hope that the trade will go up to $3.5 billion in a couple of years. He said joint ventures will be set up in India for producing defense spare parts.

Mr. Yeltsin said Russia would support India in all the international fora, including the United Nations, on the Kashmir issue.

Agreements Signed

BK2801145893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] India and Russia today took major initiative to clear all irritants in their relations, including the rupee-ruble exchange rate issue. The visiting president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, categorically assured the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, that Russia will fulfill all its commitments, including supply of defense spares and cryogenic rocket engines for the space program.

The two countries signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation and several other agreements for strengthening ties in a number of fields. President Yeltsin and the prime minister had talks for about one hour and 45 minutes followed by a 40-minute session of official-level discussion with full delegations of both the sides.

The External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen that the rupee-ruble debt issue was sorted out by the two leaders at the talks. It was decided that the calculations of applicable exchange rate will be based at the rate existing on the first of January 1990 and the whole package will be implemented from the first of April 1992. The spokesman said the agreement will give a net advantage of 32 percent to India.

In the area of space cooperation, the Russian president made it clear that no third party can interfere with an agreement between India and Russia and neither country will withdraw from its commitments.

President Yeltsin fully supported India's stand that Kashmir is an integral part of India and expressed that Russia will continue to support India's unity and territorial integrity.

President Yeltsin and Mr. Narasimha Rao also discussed a variety of other issues, including regional developments, Central Asia, Iran, the gulf, Afghanistan, and the issue of reduction of strategic nuclear weapons.

Welcoming President Yeltsin, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that the two countries need a new vibrant relationship and characterize the visit as the beginning of a new era in the relations between the two countries. Mr. Rao accepted an invitation from Mr. Yeltsin to visit Moscow.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, and the visiting Russian minister for security, Mr. Viktor Barannikov, today discussed in New Delhi matters relating to bilateral cooperation in checking terrorist activities. They also agreed to exchange information on security matters.

UK Prime Minister Concludes 5-Day Visit

To Visit Gulf States

LD2701210093 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1959 GMT 27 Jan 93

[By PRESS ASSOCIATION lobby correspondent Paul Bromley]

[Excerpt] John Major is to visit Saudi Arabia on his way back to Britain from India, it was announced tonight. The Prime Minister will go to Riyadh for dinner with King Fahd, senior government officials said in Bombay. Mr Major is expected to use the meeting to seek Saudi Arabian and Arab support for the allied air strikes on Iraq.

Some Middle Eastern states, most noticeably Jordan, have voiced disquiet about the renewed military raids on Saddam Husayn. The Prime Minister is keen to ensure there is the widest possible international support for the action, which the allies say is to enforce United Nations resolutions on the no-fly zones in Iraq.

Mr Major will travel to Saudi Arabia from Bombay via Oman, where he will hold talks in the desert with Sultan Qabus. The extended itinerary will delay Mr Major's return to Britain, which was originally scheduled for tomorrow night, until Friday morning. The Prime Minister tonight defended his controversial five-day trip to India. He had been criticised in Britain for going abroad instead of staying at home to deal with domestic and international crises, such as the proposed pit closures and the problems in the former Yugoslavia. But Mr Major said it had been a great honour for him to attend India's Republic Day celebrations on Tuesday as the chief guest. [passage omitted]

Increased Investment Urged

BK2801035493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The British prime minister, Mr. John Major, has said that liberalization of trade in textiles and agricultural products promises enormous benefits for developing countries including India. He was speaking at a meeting of businessmen in Bombay yesterday. Mr. Major said sustained economic growth can be achieved in developing countries by increased trade and investment and not through aid. The British premier, referring to the cooperation agreement initiated by India and the European Community last month, said the agreement opens the way for increased cooperation in areas as diverse as trade, environment, agriculture, science and technology, telecommunication, and prevention of drug abuse.

Departure From Bombay for Muscat

BK2801080893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The British prime minister, Mr. John Major, left Bombay for Muscat this morning after a day's visit to the city. He was seen off among others by the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sudhakar Rao Naik.

During his visit, India and Britain signed two agreements which included a joint venture gas company and production of specialized software, engineering packages in aeronautics. The two countries also signed a revised agreement for avoidance of double taxation which will considerably step up British investments and technology flow to India. Mr. Major arrived in New Delhi on Saturday and was the chief guest at the Republic Day celebration.

France, UK, Russia Seeking To Sell Jet Trainers

BK2801133693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1244 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 28 (AFP)—British Prime Minister John Major wrapped up his visit to India on Thursday after failing to turn the tide in favour of British Aerospace (BAe) in its dogfight with France's Dassault to sell trainer jets to the Indian air force.

A possible Russian bid for the multi-million dollar contract to supply India with Advanced Jet Trainers (AJTs) resurfaced meanwhile as Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived here hot on the heels of the British premier.

India's air force needs to replace the trainers that are presently being used to convert pilots to the latest fighter planes, but New Delhi has been holding back on awarding the contract because of a lack of funding.

India also hopes to acquire MiG-36s during Yeltsin's visit, but experts say that without an AJT to train the pilots the swingwing Soviet-built jets would be useless.

India aims to buy some 50 AJTs at a cost of up to 700 million dollars in its second largest military deal since 1986, when Sweden's Nobel Industries bagged a 1.3-billion-dollar contract to supply artillery pieces.

During Major's five-day visit which ended Thursday, India and Britain inked two trade deals plus a revised treaty to avoid double taxation.

But the British premier's stay could not convince India to agree to British Aerospace's proposal to supply Hawk AJTs, officials said, despite the presence of BAe chief executive Dick Evans in the British delegation.

"There is nothing as of now (on the Hawk deal)," commented an Indian Air Force spokesman Thursday after Major departed from Bombay for Oman.

Indian newspapers said Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao had urged Major not to lobby on behalf of the BAe, but officials said that British Confederation of Industries chief Howard Davies and others were in the forefront of the BAe drive.

Industrialists accompanying Major were keen on a token response from New Delhi on the competitive AJT deal to send back the "right signal" to British industry, the newspapers said.

India began its hunt for an AJT in the late 1980s to replace its homemade HPT-32 and Kiron trainers, both a generation behind the least sophisticated MiG-21s.

"Both the Alpha and Hawk meet our operational parameters, both have good incentives and both fulfill our needs, but we have taken absolutely no decision so far on either of them," said a top Defence Ministry official.

France's Dassault has been pushing India to buy its Alpha Jet trainer and Defence Minister Pierre Joxe visited New Delhi last month in a bid to swing the deal.

Dassault, which was co-manufacturing the Alphas with Germany until 1986, offers a buy-back option in the deal to help India earn foreign exchange through exports.

The Franco-German package pledges delivery of 15 AJTs before the setting up of an Alpha assembly unit here and a provision for India to repay for the planes with export earnings, Western diplomats said.

Besides the financial incentives, the Alpha has little more to offer than the British Hawk, experts say.

British lobbyists point out, however, that the Alpha, now being used by eight countries, may suffer from a spare parts crunch since production was suspended seven years ago.

BAe argues that the Hawk, in addition to serving as a trainer, can also be used in combat, and the British firm's Adours engine also powers British-built Jaguar bombers, of which India has several squadrons.

The Hawk deal does not include a buy-back option, but offers transfer of technology for spares of transport aircraft—an offer India is eyeing avidly because of a serious spares crunch facing its air force, officials say.

New Delhi, which scrapped a Czechoslovak bid to sell it the L-39 and rejected the TF-5 of U.S. Northrop Corp., has reportedly renewed its interest in the Russian offer to sell its AJT after Yeltsin announced plans to visit India.

Media Comment on Prospects for U.S. Relations

Editorial Hopes for Change

BK2701144293 Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Indo-U.S. Ties and Change"]

[Text] Might one hope for a change in the decade-old American attitude that has visited Indo-US relations so far? The Carnegie Foundation's recommendations to the incoming Clinton administration on its policy towards South Asia, India in particular, may or may not match the policy-projection provided by Secretary of State-designate Warren Christopher's testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; but they would certainly please many Indians. For one, they assure the Indians that this country has many friends among Americans who understand its problems and try to place and view them in perspective. The signatories of the recommendations include not only such known friends of India as journalist-turned-scholar Selig Harrison, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and former Congressman Stephen Solarz, but also many members of previous and outgoing administrations, including, significantly, former CIA director Richard Helms, and Robert Oakley, who was till recently US ambassador in Pakistan. They have, for instance, said that India's apparent instability today has to be viewed in the context of the foundations it has laid over the last four decades, "more successfully than is realised," for its economic development. They have also drawn attention to India's success in sustaining its democratic institutions and federal structure, despite its linguistic and religious diversity. This success "stands in marked contrast to the dismal record of other regions of the world of comparable size with much smaller populations". When everybody in the world who is somebody is demanding reduction in India's defence Budget, the Carnegie report has underlined that India's defence spending comes to only 15 per cent of its overall Budget and three per cent of its GNP, whereas Pakistan's military expenditure amounts to 38 per cent of its total Budget and six per cent of its GNP. The report could also have referred to the comparative figures of India's and Pakistan's populations and the lengths of their land and sea borders. While urging the incoming Secretary of State to undertake an early visit to India and arrange a meeting between the US President and the Indian Prime Minister in 1993, the report advises the new administration against putting pressure on India to sign the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty]. Instead, the US should obtain a formal pledge from India and Pakistan to abide by the NPT provisions against export of nuclear weapons and weapons technology. It would, however, be unfair to ask India for a formal pledge. First, India is already committed to non-proliferation, whether it signs the NPT or not, and its record shows that it has never deviated from its commitment. Two, a formal pledge would amount to signing the treaty by the back-door with all its discriminatory clauses even in regard to transfer of weapons and weapons' technology. Nor would Indians agree to the Carnegie recommendation that this country join the proposed five-power arrangement, if for no other reason than that China would retain all the discriminatory benefits which accrue to it as a nuclear weapons power. In any case, as Mr Warren Christopher's testimony suggests, the Clinton administration intends to give priority to its relations with China, whereas India does not figure in the next Secretary of State's agenda. He has said that the Clinton administration's foreign policy would be a combination of continuity and change. Obviously South Asian is a region to which the option of change should apply.

Scope for Improvement

BK2201130693 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Commentary by H.S. Saraswat, special correspondent for DAINIK BHASKAR: "Closer Indo-U.S. Relations"]

[Text] If Indian Ambassador Mr. Siddharta Shankar Ray's meeting with President Clinton can be taken as a pointer, the Indo-American relations are looking for further warmth in the years to come. The defense collaboration between the two countries, the joint exercise by the two navies, keeping Pakistan on the watch-list as a terrorist state for funding terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir, and the upward trend in the trade between India and the U.S.A., all indicate brightness in the future relationship. President Clinton has, no doubt, laid down economic security of America as primary goal of his foreign policy, but, the United States will go a long way in upholding democratic principles and institutions. Close to the heels of President Clinton's desire to sort out all problems with India in a spirit of give and take, comes a recommendation of an important think tank that forms an importance base for American foreign policy.

The far-reaching pronouncement of prestigious Washington-based think tank has urged the United States to recognize India's policy in South Asia and abandon America's insistence that New Delhi should give up its nuclear option. The high-level 34-member study group of the Carnegie Endowment has asked U.S.A. to end pro-Pak and pro-China tilt and forge closer ties with New Delhi through an early visit to India by the Secretary of State and through Clinton summit in 1993. It will help face the dangers and the growing strength of Islamic fundamentalism in the world. For this, the panel wanted the U.S. to regard India's growing military strength and its nuclear know-how and short range and medium range missiles as a help and not a hindrance.

The rise of Islamic fundamentalism in areas adjacent to India underlines the possibility that New Delhi and Washington will share common security in the years ahead. India is strong enough internally to sustain the further expansion of its military capabilities and is gradually emerging a major power. Improved relations with India, including recent military cooperation, is of growing importance to the U.S. in maintaining the region's stability and resolving a wide range of global problems.

The think tank has rightly suggested that it is unrealistic to seek a rollback of India's nuclear program, but, it is not too late to achieve a freeze in the production of fissile material for weapon purposes and the development and deployment of nuclear weapons by both India and Pakistan. The U.S. could only press for formal Indian and Pakistani commitment not to export military relevant nuclear technology. The U.S. Defense Department study lists India among the countries with the significant research and development program in 21 military critical technologies. The group also underscored the value of India to the U.S. in context of the growing power of Japan and China whose direction is not clear. The U.S. has long (?approved) the Chinese and Israeli nuclear program, while pressing India and Pakistan to give up the nuclear option.

India will gradually grow in economic and military power whatever the U.S. does, the report adds. India should, therefore, be viewed as a continental region comparable to Europe, Latin America, and Commonwealth of Independent States. Given its superior size, technological edge, more developed industrial base, and bigger defense production network, India is much better situated than Pakistan to benefit from comparable forum of cooperation with the United States. It is better for America to give increased priority to India as the world's largest democracy and as a potential partner in multilateral action to solve global problems. The 53-page report co-authored by Mr. (Philip Harrison) and Mr. (Geoffry Camp) recalls that there have been remarkable changes in the preceptions of U.S. establishment about India and it (?is all) in the international system. It is time for the U.S.A. to take note of this in India and start making necessary changes in American policy toward India.

More Military Cooperation Expected

BK2801025193 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 23 Jan 93 p 12

[By Pravin Sawhney: "India, US To Hold Joint Army Exercise"]

[Text] New Delhi—Simulated joint army training, implying indoor exercises with computer assistance without participation of actual troops, against likely threats will be the next step in Indo-US army cooperation.

This implies a major step forward towards US army Pacific USARPAC aim, which is, to increase interoperability with allied and friendly armies throughout the Asia-Pacific-Indian Ocean area. The eventual aim being the training with ground forces, most of whom are the dominant armed services in their respective regions. For instance, annual US exercises Cobra Gold in Thailand, Team Spirit with South Korea, Arctic Warrior for Alaska, Orient Shield with Japanese ground self-defence forces and Kangaroo with Australia every four years, are examples of USARPAC joint/combined field training with regional armies.

At present, the inchoate Indo-US army cooperation has concentrated on increased visits of services personnel, a joint organisation of 17th Pacific Armies Management Seminar (PAM-17), already underway, and understanding of each others specialised techniques and doctrines. For instance, limited US troops have been imparted know-how of army's cold-weather warfare and para brigade's technical training.

In an informal chat with ENS [EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE], Lt Gen Johnnie H. Corns, commanding general US army Pacific (USARPAC,) who also is cochairman of Indo-US army steering committee, emphasised that USARPAC's major objective is to strengthen bilateral defence relations with countries in the US Pacific area of responsibility.

With the Pacific Armies Management Seminar (PAM), (which is an expanded relations program of USARPAC in which annually middle-level officers of various countries of the region get together to share experiences and develop professionally) also the responsibility of the USARPAC, Lt Gen Corns does not rule out the possibility, in future, of US troops, for the first time ever, being placed under United Nations command. It may be recalled that in Korea in 1950, though the commonwealth troops were under UN command, it was the US 8th army writ that was dominant.

Expressing satisfaction at the pace of growing Indo-US army relations, Lt Gen Corns, who is on his third official visit to India to attend the 17th Pacific Armies Management Seminar (PAM-17) disclosed that the second round of Indo-US army steering committee meet is expected to be held soon in Hawaii, headquarters of US Pacific Command (USPACOM). The dates are expected to be finalised during his current visit. The US general also met the defence secretary N.N.Vohra yesterday.

Earlier the general was in India in January 1992 for the maiden Indo-US army steering committee meet, and in October, he had come to finalise the PAM-17 programme.

Army Reportedly Still on 'Full Alert' in Punjab

BK2801022793 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 20 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] Chandigarh—Despite minimal threat from the militants in the panchayat poll in Punjab, the Army is on full alert in the state.

According to official sources, 140 Army columns have been deployed in the state which is showing signs of returning to normalcy, to ensure peaceful conduct of the poll being held after about a decade. This is apart from the Army stationed in the cantonments in the state.

The sources said the effort was also to spare the police deployed in anti-militant operations for the duty. The Army is coordinating its operations with senior police officers.

The intelligence agencies had identified 2200 villages all over the state as sensitive and these villages were being given special attention by the Army. The sources said there have been reports of militants sending messages to the villagers to elect particular candidates but such cases were virtually negligible.

Earlier this month, the Chief Minister, Mr. Beant Singh, had finalised the security arrangements for the panchayat poll in consultation with the Army and police top brass and this meeting was followed by a meeting of senior police and Western Command officers to chalk out the strategy.

The Western Command has also coordinated its activities with the Northern Command as part of the state is covered by the Northern Command in the Pathankot sector.

These sources said though the situation in the troubled state had been contained, arms continued to be smuggled from across the border including from Jammu sector. There have also been reports of such activity on the Rajasthan and Gujarat borders.

The Army is likely to be withdrawn gradually from internal security duty but the Army stationed in cantonments would continue to help the security forces whenever required. The Chief Minister had said that Army deployment would continue till June. Sources said as the situation was improving, the police would have to take more responsibility.

The operation Night Dominance launched by the security forces was part of the efforts to take on more responsibility as earlier, this job was with the Army under Operation Rakshak 11. Official circles are aware of certain weaknesses of the police force especially corruption and attention is being focussed on streamlining it. These sources favour operation clean up as part of this drive.

According to sources, there is complete coordination between the Army and the Punjab Police.

Pakistan's Increased Offensive Capability Viewed

BK2001095593 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 5 Jan 93 p 11

[By Pravin Sawhney: "Pakistan's Challenge Is Turning Into Reality"]

[Text] New Delhi—Pakistan, for the first time, is poised to match offensive capabilities of Indian land force.

A light strike corps centered around a newly raised armoured division and a heavy rocket brigade are the likely land forces accretions for the Pakistan army by 1994. This is a logical follow- up to the forces depicted during the much publicised exercise "Zarb-e-Momin" (ZEM) conducted in December 1989, as a sequel to India's "Brass-tacks" (BT) in the winter of 1987.

The recently reported 300 Polish T-72 tanks deal and transfer of nearly 200 Iraqi captured T-72 tanks earlier to Pakistan by Saudi Arabia immediately after the Gulf war are likely to be utilised in raising an armoured division, and not a mechanised division, for three reasons. First, since the Pressler amendment guillotine was imposed by the US government, licenced production of armoured M-113 A2 mounts would have been drastically curtailed. The Heavy Defence Industries at Taxila is unlikely to keep the schedule of producing 775 armoured personnel carriers (APC) by 1994.

Second, given the Pakistani tank experience gained through close cooperation with China on its main battle tank Khalid, integration of T-72 tanks into its fleet will be relatively simple.

Considering that Khalid is a weighter T-72 tank, all that is required is that electromagnetic compatibility is maintained, passive night firing capability is procured and a simplified fire control system slaved to the sights is ensured. And work on these aspects would already be part of Khalid design studies.

And importantly, the Pakistan army, like its Indian counterpart, will find it difficult to delineate specified missions and tasks for a mechanised division in the subcontinental concept of battle. After a decade of efforts since the raising of its only mechanised division, the Indian Army has now converted it into an armoured division.

Woven around a raised armoured division, a new Pakistani light strike corps can be utilised on a dual role east of the Indus river, depending upon the battle setting. It can be used as a follow-on force with either of the heavy strike corps (centered around Pakistan 6 armoured division at Mangla-Kharian and I armoured division at Multan), or on an independent mission. While good offensive capability can be provided by this corps on an independent task, doubtful ability of the Pakistan air force to provide dedicated air cover, however, makes this role improbable.

Yet, this was a likely role envisaged by the Pakistan General Headquarters during exercise ZEM. Unlike Indian BT, ZEM envisaged the battle center of gravity to be Indian Punjab. The main effort, therefore, of its two strike corps was in the Thar (Indus-Jhelum- Chenab triangle bounded in the north by the Chashma-Jhelum canal) area, depicting Indian Punjab tertain. Light strike corps were shown in the Thar to absorb Indian main effort. In 1989, when ZEM was conducted, it baffled discerning observers to note Pakistani depiction of theatre counter-attack forces it did not have.

This theatre counter-attack force, envisioned by the probable raising of a light strike corps, will match the newly raised Indian 21 corps. With an armoured division in place, the infantry elements likely to be pooled will be either from 11 corps at Peshawar or 12 corps at Quetta. While a division (either 7 or 9) of 11 corps already forms the army reserve, and given the relative peaceful situation in southern Afganistan, forces from 12 corps are likely to be milked for this probable strike corps. Some troops from 10 corps at Rawalpindi and some new raisings should make up the organisation of this corps.

The artillery elements are likely to be a few new self-propelled (SP) gun raisings and others pulled from existing artillery formations, already with an impressive fleet of SP artillery. However, it will be an immensely difficult task to prepare 15 days of War Wastage Reserves (WWR) at intense rates for a mechanised division let alone a corps of this nature, as reported by British JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, while commenting on a propable raising of a mechanised division by Pakistan.

The other misreading by Pakistani generals, as hinted in the prestigious magazine, would be the non-availability.of sufficient Indian holding formations employed in internal security duties.

Once penetration is achieved by Indian strike forces, these formations as follow-on troops, already deployed in their operational areas in Punjab and Kashmir, can send Pakistani designs awry.

Pakistani Army's Potential Purchase of T-72 Tanks Noted

BK2001121793 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 7 Jan 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Getting Armoured"]

[Text] India and Pakistan inherited an enviable legacy of cavalry warfare when the Indian Army was divided in 1947. From the mounted campaigns of World War I, to heroic efforts in the North African deserts during World War II, the record was impressive. Regiments of both armies flaunt battle honours from various theatres, with due pride. It was not surprising, therefore, for military prophets to regard the subcontinent as the locale for the last great armoured battles. The 1965 war saw some outstanding tank battles, with the Pakistan Army displaying better thinking and planning. With the Western Sector playing a secondary role during the 1971 War, the deployment of armour was hesitant, but for operations in the Basantar sector. In the two decades since, a greater effort has been underway to increase the number of armoured fighting vehicles. Indian armour expanded rapidly, and has probably reached its saturation point. From reports that Pakistan is slated to purchase 300 T-72s from Poland it is apparent the process of mechanisation is still being pursued by Islamabad. Having been gifted a division's worth of captured, (and in remarkably good condition), Iraqi tanks last year by Saudi Arabia, Pakistan is hoping to put together a more mobile armed force. Mobility is fundamental to the future of warfare, and one of the few universal military lessons of the last Gulf War. There, are a few important pointers from the latest purchase. It becomes quite obvious that reports in the Pakistani press suggesting some discrepancies in Islamabad's claim to have made a main battle tank (MBT), the Khaled, were based on facts. The Khaled is little else but a reworked Chinese T-59. Like India, Pakistan too is facing a severe spare parts crunch. While India suffers on account of the Soviet Union's disintegration, and conditions in the erstwhile republics, Pakistan's problem stems from Washington's freeze on arms supplies because of its dubious nuclear programme. Both are suffering from relying on a single marketplace.

By diversifying sources, the Pakistani armed forces hope to correct the situation. And in the current buyers market, Pakistan has certainly struck a bargain, doubts about the source of funds notwithstanding. It is unclear if the contracted T-72s are of the updated model, and even if they are, Pakistan's problems will not diminish with the purchase. A T-72's remarkable profile may be of enormous assistance in battle, but it suffers from a fundamental weakness. Its three-man crew is clearly unsuitable for sub-continental regiments, long used to at least a four-man crew. Somebody in the tank will have to duplicate functions which is potentially hazardous in war. An added problem is that when the T-72 was designed, the driving position came to be drawn around the Central Asian classes. The Punjabi classes which the Pakistan Army recruits are certain to find the driver's seat uncomfortable. This feature aggravates driver fatigue in the long run; but with a bargain such as this, Pakistan is unlikely to worry too much.

U.S. Decision To End Frigate Lease to Pakistan Viewed

BK2801024393 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 21 Jan 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Sunk Sans A Shot"]

[Text] The decision of the United States of America to discontinue the lease of eight frigates to the Pakistan Navy is a significant development. Strategic perceptions of the US have been at variance with Pakistan's propensity to view matters from a tactical perspective. The evolution of Pakistan-US ties in the recent past suggests that further change is likely. As far as the Pakistan Navy is concerned, the loss of eight frigates cuts its total strength of principal surface combat vessels about a third. In any circumstance this is a serious loss, no matter that the Brooke and Garcia class frigates were rather aged. At one stroke, Pakistan Navy's antisubmarine warfare and anti-air capabilities have suffered a setback. Operating borrowed machinery is reflective of the kind of planning that exists in Pakistan's Naval Headquarters, and must be heartening to Delhi.

The Indian Navy has gained considerably without having to fire a shot a unique situation undoubtedly. But, as always, there are important lessons to be learnt for planners and observers. The fulcrum of the issue lies in foreign borrowing and purchases. Other than a nuclearpowered submarine (for test purposes) India has not really been in the business of temporary use facilities; but purchases, certainly. With the elimination of eight Pakistani vessels, does a need exist to continue with purchases? This is an opportune moment to do some hard thinking in this direction. India's financial condition, which demands such inquiry, is unlikely to improve for some time to come. The only route possible that leads out of this state is a far greater emphasis on indigenous research and development, to be followed up by domestic production. There is already a no-option situation, but it requires India to recognise the reality. Eminently capable dockyards are currently under-utilised by a shortage of funds and cooperation.

Rectification, however, is dependent on a reorientation in thinking and planning. More funds will be needed to revitalise the domestic capabilities, therefore diversion of monies within the navy budget is called for. This is also the time to reassess the threat from Karachi and Gwadar. Pakistan's submarine fleet remains untouched, and is likely to expand. As far as the Indian Navy is concerned, the submarines are in any case the major threat. In the planning of the Indian Navy for the future, this factor must be borne in mind. Submarines are widely regarded as the future of naval warfare, and the restructuring of Russian and US strategic nuclear assets only underlines this as a fact. Whilst focussing on domestic production it would be helpful to keep this in mind. India cannot rest on the laurels of having manufactured, on licence, a couple of submarines. A need exists for more, and India has only rupees with which to make payments.

Possible Congress-Janata Dal-Ajit Coalition Assessed

BK2801031393 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 23 Jan 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Opportunist Coalition"]

[Text]—The report that every senior Congress leader with a stake in politics in north India is opposed to the Congress forming a coalition government with the Janata Dal(A) [Ajit] at the Centre, should hardly surprise anyone. Their stand perhaps is not unconnected with their fear of a reduction in their own ministerial opportunities because of the need to accommodate Mr Ajit Singh's supporters in the event of a coalition, or of the Janata Dal(A) then claiming the lion's share of the Lok Sabha seats from Uttar Pradesh in the next election. But whatever their calculations, the fact remains that such a coalition will be nothing short of an exercise in opportunism. The Congress and the Janata Dal(A), which was then a part of the Janata Dal, fought each other in the last election. Neither the party, which is virtually an inherited fief of Mr Ajit Singh, nor Mr Singh himself, has the kind of political reputation which will help to boost the soily image of the Congress. If anything, it will undermine whatever little credibility the party still enjoys. One could have understood such a move if the party direly needed the support of the 21 Janata Dal(A) members in the Lok Sabha. It does not. As of now, the party has been surviving thanks to the support it receives from other parties on issue-to-issue basis.

If anything, a Congress-Janata Dal(A) coalition will undermine the cohesion of both parties. The problems of adjustment it will pose will give a sharper edge to the growing clamour in the Congress against Mr Narasimha Rao's weak leadership. On the other hand, senior leaders of the Janata Dal(A) have questioned the wisdom of joining the Rao government at a time when its stock is at an all-time low. Their voices will become more strident if the Congress continues to lose ground or they are denied the rewards they expect from the coalition. A combination dogged by tensions between the two parties involved as well as within each of them, will hardly be able to cope with the severe challenge it faces from the Bharatiya Janata Party, the need to oppose which is cited as the primary rationale of their coming together.

Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao's statement that the possibility of a Congress-Janata Dal(A) coalition has featured in his thoughts, suggests that something is afoot; so does the Congress spokesman, Mr V. N. Gadgil's admission that there had been talks on the subject. Since the coalition will not be able to contain the BJP's [Bharatiya Janata Party] challenge, one can only explain Mr Rao's interest in it in terms of his effort to bolster his position, weakened by dissidence in his own party, with the help of outside support. Any such calculation, however, will go awry as the coalition will only aggravate the internal differences in both parties. The BJP's challenge can only be met by revitalising the Congress, which does not seem to be his urgent concern. It is a sad commentary on Mr Rao's sense of priorities that he is thinking primarily of his own survival when his party and the country face serious challenges.

Ex-UP Chief Minister Denies BJP Role in Mosque Razing

BK1901130193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] The former Uttar Pradesh [UP] chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, has denied before the Supreme Court the allegation that the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] government had conspired to demolish the disputed structure at Ayodhya. He said the destruction was a sudden act which neither the center nor the state had foreseen. Mr. Kalyan Singh gave a statement to this effect in an affidavit filed in the court today in response to a suo moto show-cause notice issued to him and six senior officers of the state administration last month. Referring to the state government's direction to the administration not to fire at the kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers] demolishing the structure, the former chief minister said he had acted in good faith to avoid a bloodbath. Besides Mr. Kalyan Singh, the six senior officers also appeared in person before the division bench comprising Mr. Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah and Mr. Justice G.N. Roy.

Curfew-Bound Areas of Delhi Continue Tense

BK2801040493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The situation in the curfew-bound areas of the walled city in the capital is tense but under control. A police spokesman told our correspondent this morning that no untoward incident was reported during the night. He said there is no truth in the rumour that any mosque has been demolished or desecrated in Delhi. The police has warned of strict action against those spreading rumours and indulging in acts of arson.

Rioting Flares in Bombay; 2 Killed

BK2701162293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] In Bombay, two persons were killed and four others injured when police opened fire to disperse a rioting mob at Malad in the northwest suburbs of the city last night. Three police personnel were also injured when a mob attacked a police picket with acid bulbs. Curfew has been imposed in the locality from 0800 to 1800. Sources said the night curfew will continue in all the 25 sensitive localities in the city.

Naxalites Kill Police Officer in Andhra Pradesh

BK2701161493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, Mr. K.S. Vyas, the Deputy Inspector General of police, looking after the Naxalite [Maoist guerrillas] activities in the state, was shot dead in Hyderabad this evening by suspected extremists. The chief minister, Mr. K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, has condemned the brutal killing of the brave officer.

Chief of Banned Muslim Organization Surrenders

BK2701161293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] The chief of the banned Islamic Sevak Sangh, Mr. Abdul Nassar Madani, surrendered to the Kerala police in Trivandrum this evening. Mr. Madani had gone underground following the ban on some organizations in the wake of the Ayodhya incident early last month.

Iran

Velayati Sees No Change in U.S. Behavior

LD2701182193 Tehran IRNA in English 1607 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA—In an interview printed in Wednesday's [27 January] issue of the Persian daily RESALAT Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said that as far as US-Iran relations are concerned the Democrats are not substantially different from the Republicans.

He said that he does not think the new administration in the United States will behave any differently with Iran than the Bush administration.

Commenting in response to a question on the situation in Iraq he said, "We are opposed to the disintegration of Iraq. We are opposed to the interference of foreigners in the internal affairs of Iraq. We are opposed to the interference of a foreign country in the internal affairs of Iraq under color of executing the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council."

Velayati also said the Islamic Republic does not wish to dictate anything to Iraq but that it hopes that the situation in that country will be such that its people will eventually be able to determine their own form of government.

Velayati, Butrus-Ghali Exchange Messages on POWs

LD2701185093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] An oral message from UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali about Resolution 598 was conveyed to Mr. Velayati by the head of the UN office in Tehran. In the message the UN secretary general said that he believed that Resolution 598 would be implemented, describing it beneficial to the region and the world. Referring to the importance of regional issues and the role of the UN secretary general, Mr. Velayati declared that Iran is prepared to implement Clause 3 of Resolution 598 concerning the exchange of Iranian and Iraqi prisoners of war.

U.S. Acts To Predicate 'Goodwill' or 'Hostility'

NC2801102593 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES International Weekly in English 20 Jan 93 p 2

[Editorial: "The Legacy of Irrational Hatred in the White House"]

[Text] Bill Clinton will be stepping into the White House today to face a very serious crisis in the Persian Gulf which the outgoing Republican administration has bequeathed to him. Thus the new American president will have to spend the very first days of his presidential term tackling this crisis.

The circumstances of Clinton's triumph in the election were such that he apparently prefers to devote himself more to internal problems of America. But today he is forced to give top priority to the Persian Gulf crisis.

In fact America has been having problems in the Persian Gulf since 1979, and the roots of the problems must be traced to the hostile attitude towards Iran which had been adopted by the previous American leaders. What is more, this hostility has been in the main unjustifiable.

The open support of the U.S. of Iraq's aggression into Iran is an established and indisputable fact today. As a matter of fact the list of the American acts of hostility towards Iran in the past 12 years would be really very long. This does not mean that America could not in turn produce a similar list of Iranian hostilities against them. An Iranian proverb says, "They don't distribute sweets in a brawl."

But the point is that in view of the beliefs expressed by the young Clinton during his presidential campaigns, and assuming that the American people have elected him on the strength of those beliefs, it would be a valid conclusion to say that the American people, have in effect rejected the policy of interference into the internal affairs of other nations which had been pursued by Clinton's predecessors, and that the American people do not want such policies to be pursued by their leaders anymore.

Thus Clinton can claim to represent such beliefs and ideals of the American people only when he puts an end to the irrational animosity towards certain countries including Iran.

To end hostilities and start normal relations the first condition would be to avoid stipulating pre-conditions.

Tehran waits to see how Clinton will respond to Iran. Naturally any sign of goodwill will be responded to by goodwill from the Iranian side, while hostility will be repaid by hostility. It, therefore, remains to be seen whether or not Clinton will take advantage of this golden opportunity. Let us hope for the best.

Clinton Seen 'Devoid' of 'Original Ideas'

NC2801105693 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 93 p 2

[Commentary by Mehrdad Balali: "Enter Clinton; But Will He Deliver?"]

[Text] Bill Clinton has finally taken office in the face of great domestic and international expectations. The American people, dissatisfied with their present situation, are hoping that the new president will tackle the growing economic problems in the U.S. and take a more active role with respect to the distribution of wealth in the country. And many in the world—from the Middle East to Eastern Europe and the Caribbeans—expect that the change of leadership in the United States will have a considerable impact on the fate of their countries.

But these expectations, largely based on Clinton's campaign promises and the established image of the Democratic Party, might prove to be hollow as Clinton has already proved to be far from the visionary he purports to be; and in fact, there are signs that he might not be a bold and capable statesman as Bush has often been characterized.

In spite of all his pledges during the campaign, Clinton has, since the election, slavishly supported all of the U.S. foreign undertakings, and sometimes the very adventurisms he had formerly questioned—like his endorsement of America's actions or inactions in Somalia, the Balkans, and Iraq. The Democrat's support for the present U.S. foreign policy is so wholehearted that one wonders about the need for a change of administration in that country.

During his campaign, Clinton continuously blamed the impoverished state of the economy in the U.S. on too much involvement abroad and he urged a move inward. But all the evidence since his victory shows that he is unwilling to give up the supposed achievements of the Republicans Reagan and Bush in the foreign policy arena. Clinton considers American intervention in the Persian Gulf a success and has vowed to continue his country's active presence in that region. Though he might not share a desire to carry forward Bush's personal vendetta against the Iraqi leader, he has promised to take a hard stand against Saddam Husayn and continue to badger Iraq until it acts in full compliance with UN resolutions which the U.S. played a major part in drafting.

Clinton has also reneged on his support of the Haitian opposition. Before the election he criticized George Bush for his policy of forced-repatriation of Haitian refugees, but alarmed by the prospect of a mass migration by the refugees to the United States, he has since withdrawn from that position.

There is, however, one pledge that Clinton is likely to keep: His unconditional support for Israel. Obliged to the Israeli lobby in the U.S. who turned its back on Bush for supposedly kowtowing to Arabs, he will undoubtedly search for Israel's interest within the context of the Middle East Peace Process.

On the domestic front too, Clinton has not yet come up with a viable alternative to the conservative economic policies set forth by Ronald Reagan. Faced with a recession and the public opposition, it is unlikely that the Democrats will once again resort to higher taxes and protectionist economic policies.

The farthest they might go in that direction is to impose superficially higher taxes on the rich in order to spend it for the poor. On the other hand, being overjoyed by America's military strength and its new position in the world, it is doubtful that a sharp reduction in the defense budget would be too popular. So it is unknown where Clinton will get the money he needs for the social welfare programs he has promised to the American people.

Clinton, despite his youth and vivacity, does not appear to be a suitable candidate to run America for the next four years.

He lacks the needed talent and experience for a major leader, and his election seems to be a byproduct of a combination of luck and public frustration with the status quo. Judging from his defensive campaign tactics and his comments after his election, Clinton appears to be devoid of any original ideas. His response to his rivals during the race was limited to an effort to shield himself from attack and to justify his position—a style which is likely to persist in his position as a president.

Uncertain and lacking his predecessor's single-minded purpose, Clinton is going to act with caution and respond to events instead of pre-empting problems. He will have difficulty initiating new international roles for his country and concluding the existing ones. Under the Clinton administration, there will be a weaker and more unfocused America which would find it hard to continue the path introduced by Reagan and find it even harder to give it up.

Christopher 'Forced To Continue' Republican Policy

NC2801112193 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 5 Jan 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Christopher and Future U.S. Policy"]

[Excerpts] What policy will Bill Clinton follow in the Middle East now that he has announced the cadre of his State Department? This is the question political experts are discussing. Warren Christopher, the incumbent secretary of state, is one of the influential figures of the Carter era and is well informed of the political scandals of the past 12 years. [passage omitted]

One thing has played a part in the selection of Clinton's foreign policy cadre: the Middle East issue, which heads the priorities of the future U.S. Administration. The impasse in the compromising talks on Palestine will engage Christopher for quite some time and political experts hope that Christopher's extensive experience will help these talks to progress.

According to these experts, one of the reasons for the lack of progress in the talks is Iran's unwavering stance, which is fundamentally important, even though the Americans seek to project it as unimportant. Certain measures are expected to be taken that will aim to eliminate this impediment. There are two possibilities: Either Christopher will boost these talks with some ploy regardless of Iran's stance, which seems unlikely, or he will create conditions for his work to progress by intensifying pressure on Iran. Events of the past weeks indicate that the second possibility is more probable and the Americans believe that by stepping up pressure on Iran, Iran's stance could be softened.

Another problem facing Christopher will be to popularize the policies of human rights and democracy in the Middle East. If Clinton's State Department wishes to operate on these pivots, he will face difficulties, because the political structure of these countries is so vulnerable that it will be difficult to predict the repercussions of encouraging such policies.

Egypt, the most vulnerable of U.S. allies, has, in the past few months, striven to minimize its problems by motivating the Arabs to expedite the compromising talks. Egypt's efforts to create and escalate the crisis in the Persian Gulf aim to project a chimerical danger to instigate the United States to maintain its status quo in the region. In this, the Zionists also play an active role.

From the outset, the Zionists have endeavored to motivate the new leaders of the White House to continue and expand their support for the Zionists. The deportation of over 400 Muslim Palestinians and making them homeless in southern Lebanon is a calculated measure to put pressure on U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East.

Christopher will be unable to adopt a foreign policy formulated on the basis of democracy and human rights in the Middle East or other troubled areas and will be forced to continue the Republicans' policies, which will be an unwelcome prospect for him at first.

U.S. Reaction to Israeli Expulsion Viewed

LD2801115193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1055 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] There is no doubt that, through the use of so-called active diplomacy, the U.S. Government will try to prevent the introduction on a UN Security Council resolution for the punishment of Israel.

Whatever the case, the unhesitant support of the U.S. Government for this Zionist crime—the expulsion of Palestinian combatants—will further discredit Washington's policy, and will face the resumption of bilateral Arab-Israeli talks with many difficulties.

Of course, it is obvious that the government of Bill Clinton should not be happy with what has happened in the situation. This is because of the fact that from the start his administration must somehow correct the blatant mistake of the Israeli Government.

Whatever the case, this will cause the Islamic and Arab governments to protest against the U.S. policies.

'Stable, Harmonized' Gulf Said Not Best for West

NC2801121493 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL Weekly Edition in English 20 Jan 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Saddam—Best for West"]

[Text] Everybody is trying to figure out why on earth U.S.-led western allies should again bomb Iraq when two years ago they almost broke the back of President Saddam Husayn's formidable military establishment. As usual American leaders and the British (who cling to Washington's wagon and have nothing of their own to say) are claiming that Saddam is a bad boy and needs to be tamed.

Justifying this week's extended bombing mission over Iraq, George Bush said he was leaving the White House with a sense of relief. Praising his country's armed forces for their 'credit-worthy' job, he said Saddam should stop his provocative acts, respect U.N. resolutions and get in line soon or else the punishment will continue.

Let's get straight to the point. On one side is Iraq's ruthless ruler who strongly believes that staying in power equals victory. Infamous in the strict sense of the word, President Husayn is a record holder in the gassing and genocide of his own people. Recall the turmoil and instability he has created, and systematically continues to do so, beyond Iraqi borders.

Hours after his initial 1993 quota of bombs and missiles were released, he declared 'Iraq will never be defeated'. Perfectly correct. In tense language the Ba'ath dictator has made it known that he personifies victory. If and when he is vanquished so will be Iraq. So, it's celebration time in Baghdad. And one more point. The air and missile strikes are a blessing in disguise for the Iraqi rulership. The rulers and the ruled in Arab States are watching more carefully than before. No Arab states but one (Kuwait) are basking in the fresh sufferings of Iraq. Regimes are uneasy and fearful, specially in kingdoms and sheikhdoms.

On the other side we have America, with an inflated sense of self-importance, the strategic need for letting oil flow freely to the western economies and the saturated international arms bazaar. Then again there is the U.S. problem of 'finding a new villain' to fit the cold war model and the rising influence of revolutionary Islam shaking the pillars of corrupt pro-western regimes.

The more you think about it, the simpler it becomes. Those who exercise power in the U.S. need to have Saddam as Iraqi president until an alternative, whose credentials are acceptable to the West, is found.

On the face of it, politics may have cast Saddam and the U.S.-led Western alliance in opposite camps. Intermittently, they have engaged in war games. But their symbiotic relationship is as much in evidence today as in 1980 when the Iraqi leader was given the O.K. to invade Iran.

A stable and harmonized Persian Gulf is naturally not in the interest of the West. Moreover, if Islamic law becomes the dominating force in the region, it's not clear what will happen to the 'free and fairly-priced' supply of oil to the industrialized economies. Multi-billion dollar arms contacts will also go down the drain. It is in turmoil and tension that oil prices have almost remained stable while western governments have sold military hardware to Arab oil producers at exorbitant prices.

Saddam is best for the West. He is their illegitimate baby and knows what to do when. Well aware of the instruments of today's statecraft, he has the ability to maneuver and to retreat if necessary while pursuing a goal. It is for those around Saddam to realize that he is the biggest threat to the future of Iraq.

Scenarios for Future Iran-U.S. Relations Viewed

NC2701132093 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Jan 93 p 18

[Majid Reza'iyan commentary: "Iran, America at Loggerheads—Future of Crisis"]

[Excerpts] The new world order showed its true nature and objectives following the dissolution of the former Soviet Union, with the U.S. reaping political capital from the Persian Gulf war. [passage omitted]

1. A glance at recent events shows a new era of Western pressure on Iran, ranging from the Abu Musa crisis to the reactivating of Britain and the United States in Iraqi Kurdistan, affirming their objective: the plot to violate Iran's territorial integrity.

Implementing its desired new world order, we have seen that the United States thinks it necessary to violate the territorial integrity of all those it views as its "rivals" or "opponents." The reasons for boosting the U.S. military presence in the strategic Persian Gulf region on the pretext of chastising the element of tension in the region—Saddam—can easily be understood. The permanent political presence of the United States and Britain in al-Sulaymaniyah, a move considered to complement the plan for peace in north Iraq, now conveys a different impression. [passage omitted]

2. During the Democrats' tenure of the White House, the United States plans to rely heavily on political pressure levers, one of which is human rights. The short-term objectives of these levers center on restricting Iran in the regional and international spheres as well as on dimming the luster of the aspirations and principles of the Islamic revolution.

These levers become more meaningful in light of Washington's efforts to continue its moratorium on the export of technology to and its economic embargo against Iran. In this manner, the United States craftily seeks to kill two birds with one stone: isolating Iran's Islamic values within Iran and projecting Iran as unsuccessful in its bid to rebuild and boost its economy. Such U.S. pressure has distorted Iran's image as the seat of Islamism among its supporters and conveyed the impression that the effort to popularize Islamism is futile!

3. Doesn't the West know that during the eight years of imposed war on Iran, numerous crises, assassinations, extensive bombardments and large-scale propaganda only bolstered our resistance? [passage omitted]

4. In light of the current situation and the sentiments prevailing against Iran, how can one assess the critical ties between Iran and the United States on the threshold of the new world order? Perhaps the following suppositions could conjure a picture of the future:

A. A hypothetical situation of an Iran-U.S. clash: In such a situation, escalating political and economic pressure on Iran will not yield the desired results. On the contrary, Islamism would be elevated to reach its peak in such a way that the region's political stability would be destroyed and no breakthrough would ever be achieved in the Arab-Israeli talks.

It is natural, in such circumstances, that the United States should seek ways and means to continue its conflict with Iran.

B. A change in the political stances of both countries: The United States could not become any wiser but if the trend of domestic economic pressure along with social and moral crises continues and puts Washington in a reactive position, some changes may be perceived in U.S. foreign policy on Iran.

We know the idea of relinquishing the values and principles of our revolution is also out of the question and was ruled out by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni and the revolution's great leader. [passage omitted]

C. Continuation of the status quo.

In each of the three scenarios, we should certainly think of effective levers in the future world order. We must seriously consider how the three levers—the strengthening of Islamism, enhancing our ability to anticipate, and retaining the initiative in foreign policy—can be used to convey the cultural message to people worldwide and to our peers and to capitalize on it. Undoubtedly, the United States wishes to play a superior role and retain world leadership, which overtly conflicts with the rise of Islamism after the collapse of communism. This conflict may one day involve us in new imbroglios. The trend of generating false crises affirms this and recent U.S. moves in the region and in some border regions of neighboring countries also confirm these beliefs.

Expediency and strength, demonstrating the intelligent utilization of power and diplomacy, can help us over the current period, one that finds Islam at its most sensitive and that heightens our responsibilities more than ever.

Talks With Turkey on Border Security Praised

LD2701221593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Interior Minister 'Abdollah Hamid Nuri-Hoseynabadi, who paid a visit to Ankara at the official invitation of the Turkish interior minster, returned to Tehran on Wednesday [27 January] night. Upon arrival he took part in an interview with our correspondent terming the outcome of his visit as positive, and said: During the bilateral talks with the Turkish officials we discussed and exchanged views on the expansion of the two countries' relations and cooperation on border security affairs.

The interior minister stressed the need for the establishment of coordination between the Iranian and Turkish border officers aimed at confronting terrorism and narcotics. He said: In that respect a security agreement was signed between the interior ministers of Iran and Turkey. The interior minister referred to the setting up of the Iran-Turkey border commission and information exchange aimed at confronting terrorism and narcotics and added: It has been decided that the two countries' joint security committees meet once every three months in Tehran and Ankara to follow up relevant issues. He specified that during the abovementioned talks it was also decided that the high-level border meeting resumes its activities and hold sessions each year. He added: The first session of those meetings will be held in Orumiyyeh at the beginning of next [Iranian] year [which begins 21 March].

Pakistani Foreign Secretary Meets Velayati

BK2201164693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, has been having talks with Iranian officials in Tehran on the latest developments in Afghanistan and other parts of the region. He held meetings with the Iranian foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and his deputy, Mr. Ala'eddin Borujerdi. The two sides expressed the view that the situation in Afghanistan must be stabilized for the betterment of the Afghan people.

German Economic Delegation Arrives

LD2401170993 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1430 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] A 43-member industrial and economic delegation from the Federal Republic of Germany, headed by Mr. Dieter Spoeri, the economic affairs and technology minister of Germany's Baden-Wuerttemburg state, arrived in Tehran today. The delegation is (?slated) to explore ways of expanding technical cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran. A German official in charge of economic cooperation with Iran told our correspondnet that a three-day symposium, which will be held in Tehran commencing tomorrow, is missioned with the task of assessing technical cooperation between Germany and Iran and the transfer of modern technology to the Islamic Republic of Iran for the modernization of its industry.

Meeting With Deputy Minister

LD2501215293 Tehran IRNA in English 1757 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA—Iran and Germany here today called for the expansion of mutual political and economic relations.

The call was made in a meeting between Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi and the visiting Minister of Economy and Mining of the German State of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Dieter Spoeri.

Spoeri said Iran plays a key role in maintaining regional security and stability, and said his country is keen to broaden its ties with the Islamic republic.

In the meeting Va'ezi condemned the ongoing Serbian crimes in Bosnia-Hercegovina against Europe's native Muslims, and described as "unjustified" the double standards of the United Nations and other international circles towards Iraq and Serbia. He called for serious measures of the world community in this regard.

Va'ezi also elaborated on the Iranian initiatives for maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Symposium Held on Trade Links

LD2501180893 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA—At the opening session of a technical symposium by the German State of Baden-Wuerttemberg and the Iranian Chamber of Commerce here today it was agreed that Iran and Germany cooperate in the training of personnel, machine building, textile industries and food processing.

It was said in the symposium that transfer of technical knowhow to Iran can promote Iran's export of non oil products to Germany.

Head of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines 'Ali-Naqi Khamushi said at the opening session that Germany is Iran's best business partner. He said relations between the two countries are steadily improving despite the hindering elements on their way.

He emphasized that the trade relations between Iran and Germany should be more balanced in the mutual interest of the two countries.

The Economy and Mining Minister of the German State of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Dieter Spoeri, said that in 1992 Iran and Germany exchanged about eight billion German marks worth of commodities 25 per cent of which was between Iran and Baden-Wuerttemberg.

He observed that for the time being trade exchanges between the two countries are not at their expected level, and added that Germany tries to offer guaranteed credits to Iran for facilitating Iran-Germany trade exchanges.

Spoeri said the Germans now visiting Iran are not here for transacting business but expressed hope that hindrances now checking a freer exchange of commodities between the two countries would shortly be solved.

He observed that the principal goals behind the arrangement of the symposium is to help transfer of technical knowledge to Iran to help it launch an economy consistent with its national construction projects.

Meanwhile Iranian Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh in his message to the symposium, stressed on the concern of the Iranian Government for the well-being and prosperity of the private sector in Iran and noted that necessary legislations as well as arrangements had been made to ensure security of investment and to offer an incentive for foreign investment in Iran.

Regional Cooperation, West's Expulsion Called For

NC2401220493 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 16 Jan 93 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Saddam's Provocations and the Allied Actions"]

[Text] The allied military operation against Iraq in the last days of George Bush's administration has sparked off various reactions. The West has expressed its support while the Arab world, as usual, is on the verge of splitting into various groups.

Whatever the motives of the Iraqi leadership in moving the missile batteries outside the 32d parallel and military and civilian equipment from Umm al-Qasr and in repeating allegations on Kuwait may be, events once again reveal to Persian Gulf leaders that the series of U.S. actions against Iraq constitute a long-term plan compiled for the future of the strategic Persian Gulf area. Despite the West's efforts to paint a terrifying picture of Saddam Husayn, the threat of Saddam does not go beyond his territorial and political expansionism and can be controlled through regional cooperation.

Are the threats emanating from the direct presence of foreign forces in this sensitive region conceivable? Is Europe's Cold War experience and the existence of NATO and the Warsaw Pact, which helped keep the flames of the Cold War going, in this region not enough to prove the futility of nonregional solutions? Was it not proven that both America and the former Soviet Union chose Europe as their shield?

When the United States is dismantling its military bases along the borders of the Cold War, what will the consequences of setting up a military base and the unprecedented deployment of fleets and aircraft carries in the

Persian Gulf, as well as the signing of defense pacts and the increased threat of an arms race, be for the regional countries? Don't the allied operations in the Gulf imply that no regional country can offer new ideas for regional cooperation that can end both Saddam's provocations and the presence of the Western forces here?

It is clear that for a number of reasons some of the weak governments in the region play a decisive role in summoning foreign forces and in strengthening their positions. Can the powerful regional countries, especially Iran, which—on the basis of current scenarios—will not be safe from the strategic threats of the presence of foreign forces, account for their silence and indifference? Will these countries not have to give up some of their national interests or ideological claims in the long-run or when they actually come face-to-face with the threat? The issue here is obviously not the propagation of tension-creating policies. The issue here is that a country like Iran can use active diplomacy to unite the regional countries into the framework of a collective security system and pave the grounds for a long-term regional cooperation. This is true even though there are many obstacles along this path.

By further opening up its realms and attracting a number of regional elements, the Islamic Republic of Iran can convey to the regional countries the message that in the Persian Gulf and a bit further away—in the Middle East and the Indian Ocean—there are partners who do not have to look very far away and beyond the oceans for cooperation.

By reviewing its approach to plans such as the 6+2 pact, Iran can offer a more comprehensive pattern than what has been offered so far. A few more regional elements should be included in this pattern so that the new body that will be formed will consist of elements that can be trusted by all sides involved. When this happens, the international allied forces will see that their presence in the Persian Gulf is unfavorable, impossible, and useless.

Velayati: Ties With Central Asian States Improving

LD2801114393 Tehran IRNA in English 1056 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 28, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati says that Iran's relations with the Central Asian Republics are going ahead very well. He also says the developments in Tajikistan must be regarded as internal events which have placed two groups against each other.

Speaking in an interview with the morning daily 'HAMSHAHRI', published today, Velayati said Iran will not interfere in the internal affairs of any other country nor will it impose a friendship on any nation.

He said the newly independent republics north of Iran are its neighbors and that the country has, and will continue to have, good relations with them on the basis of the principles of good neighborly relations.

The foreign minister said relations with Cairo were now at their lowest level and implied that they would continue to remain on the same level for a foreseeable future.

Commenting on a question in relation to peace plans for the region and whether the Islamic Republic might want to create some sort of a cooperation council in response to the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] he said that such a development is totally improbable. He also noted that the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) had not been created in reaction to the (P)GCC.

He said ECO, comprising Iran, Turkey, Pakistan and seven republics of Central Asia north of Iran, is becoming ever more important, and that their foreign ministers would shortly meet in Quetta, Pakistan.

Velayati also denied there was any rivalry between Iran and Turkey in Central Asia. He said these rumors were spead by the West to turn "the friendly atmosphere and understanding in the region into tension and to frighten the newly-independent states."

Answering to a question on arms purchases by the Persian Gulf states and whether Iran will want to check the arms race in the region, Velayati said Tehran advocates the least possible allocation of resources to arms purchases since it considers investment on that as a squandering of resources.

"We wish to see that other countries of the region will do the same," he commented, expressing the hope that the Persian Gulf governments would act independently in that respect and not [words indistinct].

'Constructive Role' in Central Asia Praised

LD2301111793 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA—Stability and peace are of great importance to the strategic and sensitive region of Central Asia and the Iranian Government is doing its fair share in this regard, wrote KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL daily Saturday [23 January].

The editorial in the English daily, commenting on the relations between Iran and the newly-independent Central Asian republics, said that "of late, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been playing a constructive role in Central Asia."

Iran's geographical proximity, "sandwiched between northwest Asia and the Persian Gulf has renewed its economic, political and strategic importance, particularly in the post-Cold War era."

Referring to the recent visit by Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze to Tehran and conclusion of 15 agreements between Iran and Georgia, the paper said, "Tehran's influential role in regional issues has enjoined the Central Asians to seek friendly and fraternal ties with Iran."

It noted that Iran has shown "interest in developing mutually beneficial relations with the independent republics and the latter have reciprocated by seeking Tehran's championship for their cause."

The editorial concluded by saying that the Iranian Government is doing its fair share in securing stability and peace in this strategic and sensitive region "through collaborations with the regional countries, supporting Central Asian membership in the Economic Cooperation Organizaiton, creating a Caspian Sea grouping of littoral states, having common interests and mediating the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia."

Resolving Differences in Afghanistan Urged

LD2501173993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1111 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Internal differences have increased in Afghanistan, considering the balance of military forces of the jehadi groups and the nonexistence of a legislative body. The reason for this intensification is the interference of foreign domineering powers who intend to fan the flames of this crisis and strengthen their political power in the region. Therefore, if the political and military forces of Afghanistan do not prepare the grounds for immediate talks in order to control the current crisis, those who are waiting for the opportunity will dictate the internal situation from the outside. Hence, in order to get out of this crisis, the leaders of Afghanistan have no choice except the creation of grounds for the participation of all ethnic and religious groups in the ruling structure.

For its part, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always insisted that it opposes clashes involving any faction and calls for a peaceful resolution of the problem, since war and bloodshed will continue in Kabul until demands are met; otherwise, the Muslim people of that country will suffer bitter consequences.

Press Warns Against Disintegration of Afghanistan

LD2501120093 Tehran IRNA in English 1103 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA—Three morning dailies Monday commented on the ongoing tug of war in Afghanistan with 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' warning against disintegration of the country, 'ABRAR' blaming the power-monger Afghan leaders for sacrificing the nation for their own interests and the 'TEHRAN TIMES' saying that the continuation of the hostilities will have harmful consequences for Iran.

The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI deplored that the weapons, once sent to the Afghan people as military aid, are now being used against themselves.

The alien powers, once posing themselves as the friends of Afghans, are today taking side with those in Afghanistan who are more impudently committing crimes in the country.

The editorial disclosed that the world arrogant powers, aided by certain hands, openly or clandestinely, are preparing plans to disintegrate the country.

Underlining that the arrogance is after certain objectives and that it has never been sincere in serving the Afghan people, it revealed that during the past several years the satanic powers and regional clients have flooded Afghanistan with plenty of weapons worth tens of billions of dollars with the aim to stabilize the position of "influential figures" within the Afghan Jihad groups. "And today the Afghan people have to pay a heavy price for it."

The paper wished that the victory of the Afghan movement would have been achieved a bit later but without the aid of the U.S. and its regional client states, and instead Washington and its lackeys would not have gained such a golden opportunity to create a bloodbath in Afghanistan after the victory of Islam in that country.

It blamed the U.S., the Saudis and Britain for interfering in Afghanistan's affairs and considered as the "greatest danger" any talk on disintegration of Afghanistan which may threaten the independence and territorial integrity of the Muslim country.

"It would be a big disgrace for all Afghan Jihad groups if they fail to stop materialization of the arrogant ploy and let it happen in Afghanistan, in the name of Islam, something which did not occur even during the rule of the most subservient regimes there."

"Afghanistan must witness peace, welfare and prosperity within the framework of its independence, territorial integrity and solidarity of all Afghan oppressed people. This should be materialized with the help and through the unity of the Afghan people and Jihad groups."

A commentary in ABRAR said the Afghan civil war would end only when the military aid by the West and their regional collaborators to certain Afghan expansionist groups stopped. But, it deplored, weapons continue to flood in and one can conclude that the West, through sending in arms, wants to select a specific group for the future leadership of Afghanistan after the conflicts end.

The conflicting groups will demonstrate their potentials to the West through adoption of political and military stands during the devastating war with the aim to be favored by the West in due time, it said.

Once this part of the scenario is materialized, the "Saudi dollar-diplomacy" would enter the scene in Central Asia through Afghanistan. Thus the U.S. will besiege the Central Asian region from a new front other than Turkey.

Moreover, the U.S. intends to create a shaky situation for regional cooperation so as to gain the monopoly of the consumption market and cultural propaganda in Central Asia.

Therefore, ABRAR noted, the Afghanistan developments, though happening inside the country, are mainly guided from outside.

The U.S., in the wake of the developments in the former Soviet Union and the Persian Gulf war, looks upon this part of the world as a vital region and wants to prove its physical and political presence in the region through employment of various methods which would result in elimination of cultural and political identity of the region.

Editorializing on the same subject, the English daily TEHRAN TIMES said "the monopolistic power struggles among the Afghan political groups have caused great embarrassment for the people who desire the establishment of a proper Islamic Government in Kabul, while they have provided great satisfaction for those governments and political groups who claimed that the Afghans would never be able to set up an Islamic Government."

Turning to Iran's position towards the events in Afghanistan, it said, "it would be a great mistake if we were to lower our outlook from a general, comprehensive view and get involved in the details of balance of power among the Mojahedin groups."

The editorial in conclusion notified that the continuation of the hostilities for any reason with any justification will have the harmful consequences of the failure of a neighboring nation in their attempt to set up an Islamic Government, the waste of Iran's economic resources which may be offered in the form of any kind of assistance and finally an increase in the number of Afghan refugees in Iran which will have an adverse effect on the economy in the coming months, and will lead to a rise in unemployment and criminal offences.

Situation of Exiled Palestinians Viewed

LD2701231193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Station commentary: "Futility of Resolution 799"]

[Text] Following the failed mission of the special UN envoys, who on three different occasions had travelled to the occupied Palestine, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali yesterday recommended to the UN Security Council that in order to force Israel into complying with Resolution 799 every necessary measure should be effected. In the wake of this strong worded recommendation from the UN secretary-general, Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister of the Zionist regime, described the secretary-general's demand for bringing the exiled Palestinians back to their homes as a serious and uncalled for mistake. The foreign minister of the Zionist regime, too, in criticizing the UN secretary general's report stressed Tel Aviv's stand on lack of permission to the exiles to return to their homeland.

The wrathful stand of the leaders of the Zionist regime in fact has been expressed through the open support of the United States. The U.S. ambassador in the occupied Palestine had reassured the Tel Aviv leaders that U.S. President Bill Clinton will not allow Israel [to] be pressurized and subjected to sanctions in a bid to bring back several hundred Palestinians home.

The reactions and moves of the United States and the Zionist regime over the past few days in countering the pressure from the UN Security Council certainly constitute a significant issue which has drawn the attention of the world people. It is now more than 40 days that several hundred people, without clarification of their offense, have been exiled to the heights of south Lebanon under very adverse and difficult conditions. Tens of them are already suffering from serious diseases; apart from being faced with lack of food, water, and medicine. But regrettably UN Security Council Resolution 799, which is a valid international document compelling the Zionist regime to immediately allow the return of the exiled Palestinians to their homes, continues to remain unenforced. The previous record shows that despite the issuance of more than 247 resolutions and recommendations related to the Palestine issue and denunciation of the usurper Israeli regime over the past four decades of the occupation of the Palestinian soil, all these resolutions have been transferred to the archives of the Security Council on account of the utter disregard by Israel and their non- enforcement.

However, the world public opinion has clearly witnessed the observance of a double-standard in case of enforcement of the Security Council resolutions in a firm action against Iraq last month. Despite all the existing evidence related to the open violation of human rights of the Zionist regime, it continues to insistently pursue its anti-human measures. Even though it has repatriated 13 of the exiled Palestinians to their homelands so far, their being thrown in the horrible jails of Israel has only denoted that the Zionist regime intends to reduce the public opinion pressure vis-a-vis its anti-human acts.

At any rate, despite all the ploys of the Zionist regime one point cannot be concealed: whether the Zionist regime likes it or not the 40 Palestinian tents which are being observed by the whole world resemble a flag heralding the innocence of a nation. The flag is now fluttering in the snow-clad heights of south Lebanon and has made the usurper Israel Zionist regime completely helpless.

Support Stressed for Oppressed Tajik People

LD2701132893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Reports from Tajikistan indicate that the crushing of popular forces made up of Islamic and democrat forces is fiercely continuing and that Tajikistan's new government apparently intends to continue putting down these forces until they completely disappear from political and social life in that country.

Is the Government of Tajikistan really able to forcibly drive out forces that have roots in that country's history and culture? And assuming this is possible, do the the solutions to the problems and difficuties facing the people of Tajikistan lie in this suppression? Whatever the reply to these questions, it cannot be denied that Tajikistan's new government has chosen the shortest and simplest route to solving the problems of weak political legitimacy and an inability to attract popular support. Yet, the shortest route is not always the most correct, especially not in the world of politics.

The leaders presently in charge of Tajikistan's government should not forget that the ultimate defeat and disintegration of the former communist system was brought about by the continuous use of purges and suppression against that system's ideological opponents. The result was to deprive the communists from popular legitimacy and to separate their political system from the people. And this is the very factor which led to the defeat and destruction of the former communist system making it evident, ultimately, that the elimination of political opponents by hostile force not only led to economic and social backwardness in the former Soviet Union but that opponents will always be present and will destabilize the political system at the first opportunity.

Moreover, the role that foreign forces play in helping to suppress Islamic and nationalist forces in Tajikistan is worthy of attention. Right now the active presence of foreign powers and some of Tajikistan's neighbor countries in suppressing Tajik Muslims and nationalists has been unmasked; and in certain cases, some have even admitted that they have interfered.

At a time when efforts to eliminate the last vestiges of the former communist system in Russia and the CIS countries are being vigorously pursued, apparently in Tajikistan and other central Asian republics, some of these same countries are supporting the fossilized forces of the former communist system. This contributes to the continuation of killings and bloodshed in Tajikistan.

What Tajikistan needs today is internal stability and tranquility so that it can rid itself of the ruins and destruction caused by 70 years of communist rule and civil war. On the other hand, the reconstruction and socioeconomic expansion of Tajikistan are the national aspirations of the people of that land. These aspirations cannot be fulfilled without the effective and active participation of all social and political groups and forces.

Today, the most pressing duty of Tajikistan's leaders is to find a way of peacefully solving the differences between the various social forces and ultimately to bring into line the path for the expansion of this poverty-striken country. [passage omitted]

In any case, Islamic Iran is standing alongside the oppressed and meek people of Tajikistan and supports every kind of peaceful solution to the political differences between the clashing sides in Tajikistan's civil war. Just as the leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran has pointed out, the killing of the Muslim people of Tajikistan and turning them into refugees, is condemned by all the world's Muslims. The silence of international forums in the face of these crimes is another example of the conspiracies of arrogant powers against Muslims.

Oil Production Lowered To Stabilize Market

LD2501150193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1108 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] In last November's OPEC oil ministers meeting in Vienna, members agreed on a production ceiling of 24.5 million barrels per day for December 1992 and for the first quarter of 1993. However, according to expert figures, in December alone OPEC members' production reached 25 million barrels per day, which is 500,000 barrels more than the agreed ceiling.

While the base price for OPEC oil has been set at $21 per barrel, the price of oil in the world market is very different from OPEC's base price. In this regard the current head of OPEC has proposed that OPEC to reduce its production by an average of 1 million barrels per day to prevent the price of oil from plummeting and to encourage prices to pick up in the second quarter of 1993.

According to oil experts, the reduction in the price of oil in winter, during which the demand for energy is naturally higher, is an indication of certain countries' disregard for OPEC decisions. These countries not only produce more than their allocated quota, they sell their oil at much lower prices than the OPEC base price.

The important point which must be noted is the effect of fluctuations in the price of oil on the development programs of OPEC member states. All these countries rely on income from oil and just a $1 reduction in the price of oil cuts this organization's income by $9 billion per annum.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which has always strived for a just and stable oil price and has been the leader in this field, is voluntarily producing less than its allocated quota in order improve the conditions of the international oil market. We believe that oil is a national wealth belonging to all the people. Oil-producing countries have a duty toward the present and future generations of their nations.

Contents of Budget Bill Before Majles Detailed

NC2301131893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Majles deputies are to begin their discussion of the budget bill for 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993] at today's open session. Our correspondent Forughi reports from the Majles:

[Begin Forughi recording] Salutations to the esteemed listeners of the morning newscast. In a few minutes, the Majles deputies will commence their debate on the 1372 budget bill in open session. I will try to inform you about the manner of and developments in the debate.

This budget bill, which the president presented to the Majles in December, was studied by 25 subcommittees and the Majles Planning and Budget Committee, which has primary responsibility for this task. Ultimately, this bill was approved by one article and 56 notes by the Planning and Budget Committee. During today's open session, this committee will present its final report on the 1372 budget regarding income and sources of credit, as well as expenditures and payments which exceed 54,267,563,205,000 rials. Of this sum, more than 25,133,672,885,000 rials comprise the general budget of the government, and 34,811,743,936,000 trillion rials pertain to the budget for government companies, banks, and profit institutions. [figures as heard]

The treasury's ceiling for loans has been fixed at 1.5 billion rials for next year. The sum of 200 billion rials has been allocated for banking facilities with profit and a 6 percent payment for rural residents. Among other clauses which will be discussed during the budget committee's deliberations on the clauses of the budget bill are: The government's obligation to compile a mechanism for the equitable disbursement of consumer subsidies for urban, rural and tribal areas in 1372, implementing a uniform rate for electricity for domestic subscribers whose monthly consumption is less than 750 kilowatts per hour at current rates, as well as a ban on setting up any kind of company, office, department, or representation by ministries or government institutions and banks, as well as Islamic revolution organizations outside the country in the next year, and a moratorium on the purchase of any foreign or indigenously manufactured automobile in the course of the next year by any ministry, institution, organization, or government company for any reason.

In the approved report by this committee, the following allocations have been made: An average of $1.250 billion [as heard] for staple commodities such as wheat, red meat, sugar, rice, shortening, and cheese; a maximum of $420 million for pharmaceutical production inside the country, procurement of powdered milk and imports of certain needed medicines; a maximum of $80 million for ensuring foreign exchange for students leaving to study abroad; $850 million for strengthening the country's defense structure; and $80 million for industry, production, development, and services to be provided to deprived areas of the country. It has been stressed that all buying and selling of foreign exchange should be conducted through the Central Bank in such a manner that at the end of 1372, the total warranties based on the current and investment accounts will be 15 percent less than that at the beginning of the year 1372.

It is worth mentioning that following the presentation of the budget bill to the Majles and its forwarding to the Planning and Budget Committee, the committee set up a three-tier social, economic, and public group which incorporated the opinions of experts in the course of 66 sessions, during which it assessed the budget bill.

The other aspects of the bill which the Planning and Budget Committee members took into consideration were efforts to stipulate real and accruing income, steps to reduce foreign exchange guarantees, prioritizing development credit as compared to current credit, giving special attention to those schemes which provided quicker returns and those which have been left incomplete, boosting credit for deprived areas and for education and training and higher education sectors, taking into account the foreign exchange needed to procure staple goods and essential services, and ensuring the necessary credit for electricity projects for more than 1000 villages.

At today's open Majles session, which is scheduled to begin in a few minutes, debates on all facets of the budget will commence, following which the Planing and Budget Committee's reporter will present the details, and then the deputies in favor and against will present their views.

According to Majles regulations, the deputies each will have 30 minutes to express their views on the budget bill's clauses—a total of 10 hours. The budget bill, according to these regulations, is to be discussed in single shifts. During the debates in the Majles, the open sessions should continue without any recess on weekdays—except for Fridays and official holidays—for a minimum of at least four hours per day. It is for this reason that as of today, the Majles is to convene in open session daily until the budget bill has been assessed and ratified.

According to the law of the First Five-Year Plan for development, the deliberations on the budget bill should be completed before the Ten Days of Dawn [revolution anniversary beginning on 11 February]. Therefore, it is expected that the open sessions of the Majles will be convened daily in the afternoons and evenings in addition to midday. [end recording]

Deputy Criticizes Bill

LD2401170293

[Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Second Program in Persian at 0445 GMT on 24 January carries a live relay of today's Majles session.

The program opens with a radio announcer giving a summary of yesterday's Majles debates on the budget, and then saying that the Majles will not carry pre-agenda speeches during the sessions when next year's budget is debated.

One unidentified deputy begins by arguing that debates should still be carried, and another argues that they should not be carried in order to have more time to get on with the debates.

The Majles then continues its debates on the budget. Deputy Seyyed Hoseyni-Shahrudi, from Shahrud, begins to criticize the weak points of the budget for the next Iranian year, saying that in 1979, Iran had a population of 36 million and its oil income was $24 billion, and the country's officials hoped then that after 10 years they would be able to increase the budget to around $40 billion and that goal has been achieved now. He continues: But inflation at that time was around one third or one fourth of what it is today. What Iran could buy from world markets with $24 billion 10 years ago, it cannot even buy with $100 billion today.

He then notes that the country's foreign currency income has been reduced because of a decrease in oil production and that Iran has an oil income of around $16 billion and the country's population has also increased to around 60 million and that goes to show the government's competence in the management of the country's affairs under such difficult conditions. He continues: During the nine years that I have been a Majles deputy, I have always seen the same mistake in the proposed budgets and that is lack of a clear policy. He adds: Every single year's budget has been a reactionary budget and unfortunately has not been able to work the way it should.

Debates Continue

LD2401182093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] In continuation of the open session of the Majles this morning, which passed the general principles of the country's general budget for next year, discussion began on the single article and notes of the country's budget bill for 1993. The proposals of the deputies on the single article were reviewed and several of these proposals were passed.

With the ratificiation of a proposal which was put forward by 130 deputies, the figure of the government's general budget changed from the one passed by the Plan and Budget Committee to the one stated in the government's proposed bill. Therefore, the government's general budget next year regarding income and sources of credit, as well as expenditures and payments, exceeds 25,425,834,711,000 rials.

According to another proposal, which was passed, the credit related to the chapter on oil in the 1993 general budget bill will return to the ceiling forecast in the government's proposed bill, with an increase to 70 billion rials.

Our correspondent adds that since 1900 The Majles has been holding a session in order to attend to the notes on the budget bill.

Majles Official Comments

LD2501164893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Mr. Dorri-Najafabadi, head of the Majles Planning and Budget Commission, took part in a news conference today in which he explained the commission's views about the general budget bill for the year 1372 [beginning 21 March 1993]. He described the main features of next year's budget as its realism, the increase in the development budget, the reduction to zero of the budget deficit, the prevention of an increase in prices for basic goods, the move to a single exchange rate, and concern for reducing foreign obligations [ta'ahodat]. He also described 1372 as a year for assessing the country's First Five-Year Plan for economic, social, and cultural development.

He said that bringing about changes in the country's economic structure was a necessity, adding that policies must be aimed at increasing the gross national product, creating employment, and building more roads. Attention must also be given to economic adjustment [ta'dil], the privatization of economic units, and the expansion of public health and education.

He said that according to the budget bill which was approved by the Majles Planning and Budget Commission, it has been made incumbent on the government to reduce its foreign obligations by 15 percent from the start of the year 1372 until the end of that year. Other very important topics of discussion in connection with next year's budget are the issues of management, the transfer process [as heard], and the greatest possible reduction of the negative consequences of moving to a single exchange rate.

He said: The Majles Planning and Budget Commission has proposed, in Clause 29, that a committee be established with the participation of the president, the head of the planning and budget organization, the minister of economics and financial affairs, the governor of the Central Bank, another minister selected by the president, one deputy from the Majles Planning and Budget Commission, and one deputy from the Majles Economics and

Financial Affairs Commission, selected by the Majles, within the framework of the planned macroeconomic policies, to study the possible negative consequences of implementing the planned move to a similar exchange rate.

GCC Arms Purchases, Military Inactivity Criticized

LD2301100193 Tehran IRNA in English 0814 GMT 23 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 23, IRNA—The TEHRAN TIMES Saturday [23 January] commented on the huge arms purchase of the members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and criticised that they failed to carry on even a single military initiative against Iraqi aggressions.

"The most ironic aspect of the situation is that in spite of their huge arms purchase and the numerous summit conventions, the (P)GCC countries have not been able to engage in a single military initiative against a minor aggression of Iraq's seriously damaged war machine, and as in the past they had to wait for the intervention of the Western forces."

The English daily added in its editorial that all the Arab leaders are well aware that these interventions would lead to greater expansion of Western influence in the region.

The daily asked whether it was not time that the Arab leaders of the Persian Gulf region realise that the regional security could never be guaranteed without cooperation of all countries of the region and that friendly relations and understanding among regional countries was a must for establishment of peace and stability.

Turning to the crisis in the Persian Gulf, it said that the aggressive tendencies of the Baghdad rulers were the root-cause of the crisis.

"In fact the kind of services which Saddam has rendered the owners of the world arms factories in the past decade is unprecedented in recent history (after World War II), and it is quite probable that no one will be able to surpass him in this respect for decades to come."

Islamic World Said Undergoing 'Historical Experiment'

LD2401163093 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan, 24, IRNA—A Persian daily Sunday said that at present both the intifada (Palestinian uprising) and the Muslim world were undergoing a "historical experiment."

"JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" underlined the responsibility of the Muslim world to press the United Nations Security Council as well as the General Assembly to take practical, effective and serious steps against the Zionist regime.

The article stressed that the Palestinian aspiration had become a criterion to examine the dignity and prestige of the Muslim world, whether the Arab world approved or disapproved it. It added that the humility of the Palestinians would harm the dignity of the Arab and Muslim world.

Reiterating that the intifada did not rely on any foreign power. The editorial noted that this did not negate the responsibility other nations and governments were shouldering towards the atrocities committed against the Palestinians.

It underscored the duty of all Muslims to further expose the crimes of the Zionist regime, encourage the anti-Israeli campaign and employ pressure levers against supporters of the Zionists, for implementation of Security Council Resolution 799.

"It is irrational that resolutions against Iraq be enforced under pressure from the U.S. and its allies while the criminal Zionist entity is allowed to violate resolutions issued against it even without being questioned."

Indian Press 'Veracity' on Hindu-Muslim Clashes Questioned

LD2501163493 Tehran IRNA in English 1603 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 25, IRNA—The Indian press, which is supposed to have secular credentials, did not live up to the expectations as far as its handling of the Babri mosque demolition by Hindu vandals and the violence that occurred against the country's Muslims is concerned.

To put it simply and succinctly, the major national dailies of India lacked veracity and objectivity in portraying the Hindu violence which engulfed the country after the demolition of the historic Babri-mosque on December 6 at Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh.

To start with, the press has unanimously refereed to the riots as "Muslim backlash". This description, at the very outset, shrouds the anti-Muslim character of riots.

The factual evidences—Muslims killed and injured in thousands, their houses and shops set ablaze and looted—are a plausible portender to the fact that the violent aftermath of the demolition of the Babri mosque was, undoubtedly, designed and perpetrated against Muslims and not by them.

Media persons failed to make an on-the-spot survey of the recent violence started by fascist outfits like the Shiv Sena and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). This unfortunately went against the Muslims. Since Muslims were main victims of the riots, a number of incidents related to their mass-killings and total rampaging of their property by the Hindu vandals went unreported.

In the wake of the their inability to be an eye-witness to large scale persecution of the Muslims all over the country, the media persons relied upon police and official sources for informations. Being furnished by those who themselves were the party to the riots and opposed to Muslims, these informations were largely anti-Muslim, thoroughly manipulated and grossly biased.

Hence, hardly there appeared press reports on police atrocities against Muslims or the role of police in instigating and subsequently escalating the recent anti-Muslim riots.

Nor did the press bother to cross-check the informations provided to it by police and official sources. Media men were found lacking needed inquisitiveness. They even opted to refrain from visiting the affected areas to obtain correct informations when the situations had normalised.

This is why personal accounts of the miseries the affected persons underwent have been largely missing from the press reports on the communal riots.

To conclude, lack of inquisitiveness combined with an impartial and factual analysis of the communal riots has put a question mark on the ability and integrity of the Indian press to deal with the communal situation of the country as an impartial observer.

* Various New Appointments Announced

93AS0416E Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 30 Dec 92 p 4

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Amid Zanjani was appointed chief of the Central [Shahed Khuzavi] staff by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Rahimiyan, chief of the Martyr Foundation and the Council for Cultural Planning and Program Affairs for the Children of Martyrs.

This staff was formed in the office of the chief of the Martyr Foundation to attend to the affairs of the children of martyrs who are studying in the seminaries, to help increase their knowledge.

In an order issued by Neraqi, chairman of the board of directors and executive director of the Iran Communications Company, Shahqoli was appointed and assumed duties as director of organizational and procedural affairs in this company's administrative and employment affairs deputy directorate.

* KEYHAN-E HAVA'I Banned by UAE

93AS0416C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 30 Dec 92 p 23

[Text] Tehran—KEYHAN-E HAVA'I News Service—5 Dey—26 December—The sheykhs of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], who seek to benefit through every means from their onesided and negative propaganda against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran, have prohibited the distribution of KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in the emirates on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf in order to prevent publication of the truth about Iran's sovereignty over the three Iranian islands of Abu Musa and the greater and lesser Tunbs.

The UAE has prohibited the distribution before of KEYHAN-E HAVA'I, in which reports were included about the adventurism of the Arab sheykhs of the nations on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf with regard to violating Iran's sovereignty over the Iranian islands and its territorial integrity. As the result of this unprincipled measure by the emirates, KEYHAN-E HAVA'I was obliged to print reports about the Iranian islands on a separate sheet, and KEYHAN-E HAVA'I readers living in the emirates were deprived of receiving this news sheet.

This time the emirates prohibited the distribution of KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in their emirates without giving any reason or pretext.

Nepal

Communist Party Holds Week-Long Conference

BK2501143893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1356 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 25 (AFP)—This week's Nepal Communist Party conference will consider whether to support full democracy within the recently re-established multi-party system, a party source said Monday.

1,000 elected delegates and observers will attend the week-long conference which begins Wednesday, including delegates from Indian communist parties.

Among other foreign delegates expected to attend are representatives from China, Vietnam, North Korea, the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Belgium, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML) MP Hiranya Lal Shrestha said the main highlight of the national conference would be the democratic election of party chairman, general secretary and politburo members from the elected 690 district level representatives.

"During our party conference, we will discuss the party policy, ideology, financial and economic programmes, a new strategy against the Koirala government and how to bag more seats in the next general elections due in 1996," he said.

"Elaborate discussions will also be held on whether the NCP(UML) should follow the ideology of a fully democratic socialism, neo-democracy of the people or the perfect democracy of the people," he added.

"The conference will be opened at the national stadium while the concluding session will be held at the Open

Theatre and announce its political and social resolutions. The conference itself will, however, be held for three days in camera at the Royal Academy Hall," Shrestha further said.

Among other things, the NCP (UML) will also adopt several resolutions critical of Nepal's first elected prime minister, Girija Prasad Koirala, including condemning the government's Tanakpur barrage accord with India, which the communists allege runs counter to national sovereignty and interests.

The resolutions will also voice the party's resentment of the government's decision to increase electricity prices by more than 92 percent, he added.

Seeks Strengthening of Democracy

BK2701142493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1333 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 27 (AFP)—Nepal Communist Party Chairman Mana Mohan Adhikari called for the strengthening of his country's fledgling democracy at the party's national congress Wednesday. More than 200,000 delegates, observers and supporters attended the opening ceremony of the Nepal Communist Party national congress at the national stadium in Kathmandu Wednesday, witnesses said.

Among more than 1,000 delegates were seventeen foreign guests including leaders of the Chinese, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Vietnamese communist parties attended the opening session, of the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML).

Also attending were delegates from the Palestine Liberation Organisation, North Korea, the Belgium Labour Party, and other foreign communist leaders, the NCP-UML source said.

Almost all presidents of the opposition parties, including the ruling Nepali Congress and its senior leader Ganesh Man Singh, attended and addressed the function. They emphasized the great need for unity among the democratic and the leftist forces to strengthen and institutionalise Nepal's fledgling democracy.

In his inaugural speech, Adhikari paid tribute to those who gave their lives in the fight to re-establish democracy, spearheaded by the Nepali Congress and the leftist parties in early 1990.

"The NCP(UML) has been able to hold the National Congress for the first time since 1949 in an open, political and democratic atmosphere," Adhikari said. "The multi-party democracy in Nepal was not established just by the single effort of the Nepali Congress Party but also with the strong and important support of the leftist forces," he said.

Huge banners calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, unity among workers worldwide and extolling Marxist Leninism were prominently displayed on the walls of the national stadium, witnesses added.

The opening session was chaired by the NVP(UML) parliamentarian and the chairperson of the All Nepal Women Federation Sahaja Pradhan, the communist party source added.

Pakistan

Major's Advice to India for Dialogue Welcomed

BK2701162393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Pakistan has asked India to enter into a bilateral dialogue for resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir problem in accordance with the Simla accord, instead of spreading fabricated and baseless propaganda against Islamabad. A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today commented on the Indian press report alleging that four Sikhs reportedly trained by Pakistani agencies confessed to seeking to disrupt India's Republic Day celebrations. He also referred to the citation made for a gallantry award to an Indian officer who was killed in an encounter with Kashmiris.

The spokesman rejected these false and mischievous allegations by India with the complete contempt they deserve. He reiterated that Pakistan has no role whatsoever in the struggle and insurgencies in Indian Punjab or in any other part of India. The spokesman claimed that such allegations are being leveled deliberately to malign Pakistan at the time of the British prime minister's visit to India. Such acts are contrary to diplomatic norms and will definitely be a cause of concern for India's distinguished guest. He said all have seen how a complete strike was observed by the people throughout Jammu and Kashmir yesterday.

The spokesman referred to new Indian External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh's statement in which he alleged that whenever Pakistan faces domestic difficulties, it specifically digs up differences with India. He asserted that there is no crisis in Pakistan. On the contrary, he said, India has been trying for the past several years to shift onto its neighbors, especially Pakistan, the blame for its failure or lack of will to solve its increasing domestic difficulties.

The spokesman reminded the new external affairs minister that Pakistan has been striving to hold positive negotiations with India to resolve all outstanding issues. He said Pakistan welcomes the fact that the British prime minister has also advised the Indian Government to enter into bilateral dialogue with Islamabad. He expressed the hope John Major would receive a positive response to his advice.

Spokesman Reiterates Stand on Nuclear Nonproliferation

BK2701143093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has said that Pakistan has always been and continues to remain committed to any constructive, equitable, and nondiscriminatory step which would ensure nuclear nonproliferation in our region. Briefing newsmen in Islamabad today, he said the argument that the signing of chemical weapons convention signifies the contradiction of a principled stand on the nuclear issue could not be farther from the truth. Pakistan, he said, has always been at the forefront of international effort to evolve a comprehensive and effectively verifiable convention which would completely eliminate chemical weapons.

Canada Providing Safety Assistance for Nuclear Plant

BK2701130693 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 27 Jan 93 p 5

[Text] Canada has agreed to lend safety assistance for Pakistan's principal nuclear plant at Karachi in order to protect it from accidents and spread of radiation etc.

This in itself is considered significant by the concerned authorities. Ever since 1974 the Canadians had put a complete ban on the inflow of information and did not until very recently allow the Pakistanis any access to any kind of technical literature etc.

However, persuasions at different levels, convinced them that Chernobyl-like recurrences needed to be guarded against. Not that the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (KANUPP) had any problem, except repeated shutdowns, the need for proper safety in immediate and distant future, could never overlooked.

Luckily, the KANUPP staff, from operators to highest echelons of technical management, had a trouble free existence, ever since the plant was installed with Canadian assistance.

KANUPP is now shut down, scheduled for reopening in the beginnning on next month but its 105 megawatt production replenishes the industrial city's power needs. However, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission officials are keen on reviewing the 79 paisa per unit sale rate to the Karachi Electric Supply Corporation, which charges 95 paise ordinarily, and thus makes profit on KANUPP generation.

Sources here emphasise that Pakistan had enough uranium deposits and Pakistani engineers were now concentrating on acquiring building capacity to fabricate indigenous nuclear power plant, to save the country from foreign blackmail.

The present life of the KANUPP is 30 years. It has already been in service for two decades. That leaves ten more years for it to outlive its utility. However local engineers have developed technology to enhance its life to ten more years. That means that the KANUPP will continue to function for another 20 years.

Economic Ties With PRC, ECO Emphasized

BK2401134093 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 24 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Economic Ties With China and ECO"]

[Text] The Secretary-General of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki, addressing members of the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that China is our best and trusted friend, which played a significant role in the economic development of Pakistan and extended all possible help in our hour of need. He further said that a conference of the Foreign Ministers of ECO would be held on February 6 and 7 at Quetta and that Pakistan wants strong economic and trade ties with the ECO countries.

Pakistan and China enjoy extremely close and cordial relations in line with the accepted norms of international cooperation. Their friendship is time-tested. China has been an important source of concessional economic assistance since the early sixties. While the Western countries and the Western-controlled agencies extend aid with a complex network of strings, making the developing efforts difficult and depressing, Chinese assistance has been absolutely free of any such crippling constraints. China is on record as having written off its loan to Pakistan to the tune of millions of rupees in January 1972. Chinese loans to Pakistan as on June 30, 1991 stood at 389.275 million dollars out of which 171.369 million dollars were disbursed and 217.906 million dollars undisbursed. Pak-China economic relations have taken the form of numerous cooperative enterprises such as the Karakoram Highway, a veritable feat of road building, the Taxila Heavy Mechanical Complex and Heavy Forge and Foundry, the Heavy Rebuild Factory also at Taxila, Larkana Sugar Mills and Islamabad Sports Complex. Copper-Gold Project in Balochistan which was almost rejected by the Western countries.

The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) arose with new expectations in 1985 out of the stagnation of the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD), comprising Pakistan, Iran and Turkey. With Afghanistan and six Central Asian Republics (CARs) joining the ECO in November 1992, its membership has increased to ten. It can now confidently march towards progress and prosperity by pooling the human and material resources towards joint efforts for economic development. ECO is a vast market for our traders, however, without transport and communications facilities, economic development, intra-regional cooperation is unthinkable. Fortunately each country independently has a well-developed system of its own, but certain gaps do exist. These will have to be bridged to link the national network into an integrated one to facilitate quick movement of merchandise and trnasmission of information.

China To Collaborate on Production of Aircraft

BK2601164693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Pakistan Aeronautical Complex at Kamra is to shortly start production of jet trainer aircraft, Karakoram-8, in collaboration with China. The complex is in the final stages of negotiations with foreign companies for manufacture of helicopters. This was stated by the federal minister for defense production, Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, while talking to newsmen during a visit to the complex today. He said that Karakoram-8 has already completed its test flight and evaluation phase satisfactorily and is designed to meet the requirements of modern air forces. Complete indigenization of this modern jet trainer will be achieved in 1998.

The defense production minister explaining other facilities of the complex said that it is now ready to overhaul and rebuild the F-7B acquired from China. Overhauling facilities are already available for other Chinese and French aircraft. He said the Mirage Rebuild Factory has also helped the F-16's to remain airworthy by rebuilding and upgrading various models and accessories of their engines. He said the Kamra Avionics and Radar Factory is the most recent addition and is engaged in rebuilding of air defense radar system along with power generators. Answering questions, Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani said 25 aircraft of a friendly country are being rebuilt at the complex and some spare parts are being exported to friendly countries.

Interior Minister Meets Afghan Deputy Minister

BK2701145493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] In Islamabad today, the Afghan deputy interior minister, Monshi 'Abdol Majid, discussed with the interior minister, Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, measures to further strengthen the existing friendly and fraternal relations between the two countries. Matters pertaining to provision of facilities for imparting training to the Afghan police personnel in Pakistan also came up for discussion during the meeting. They also exchanged views on immigration matters.

Prime Minister Leaves for Visit to Switzerland

BK2601063893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif left Islamabad for Zurich this morning on a five-day visit to Switzerland to attend the (?30th) annual meeting of the World Economic Forum beginning in Davos on Thursday [28 January].

Opposition Urges Government Conciliation Measures

BK2601150193 Hong Kong AFP in English 1357 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 26 (AFP)—Pakistan's main opposition party on Tuesday urged Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to release political prisoners and withdraw corruption cases against its leader Benazir Bhutto to faciliate a conciliation.

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) spokesman Iftikhar Hussain Gilani told a press conference the party was ready to negotiate with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif provided he put an end to their "victimization."

Bhutto's election as head of a parliamentary foreign relations committee at Sharif's initiative earlier this month was seen as a conciliatory gesture after an opposition campaign to dislodge the prime minister was quashed by a government crackdown.

Her acceptance displeased hardliners in the PPP as well as some other groups which participated in a series of anti-Sharif marches toward the end of last year under the umbrella of the Bhutto-led People's Democratic Allies.

Gilani, who is close to Bhutto and is considered to be in favour of a reconciliation with the government, said the PPP remained steadfast in its demand for the formation of a government of national consensus to hold new elections.

Sharif, in a letter to Bhutto recently, renewed his offer to hold talks on improving the political atmosphere but has said no conditions should be attached by the opposition leader.

Bhutto is facing trial before special courts in Lahore and Karachi, charged with misuse of government funds, wrongful allotment of land and making irregular appointments during her 20-month premiership.

Dismissed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in August 1990, Bhutto faces disqualification from politics for up to seven years if she is convicted.

Her husband, who has been in jail for more than two years, has been acquitted of some cases of financial fraud, but his trial on murder conspiracy charges remains inconclusive at a special tribunal in Karachi.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Southeast Asia Headquarters Said Moved to Burma

BK2701114893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Latest reports from Interpol to local law enforcement authorities state that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has set up its Southeast Asian headquarters in Burma, and that, in fact, Sathasivam Krishnakumar alias Kittu, deputy leader of the LTTE who committed suicide on board the terrorist ship, M.V. Ahad, had boarded the vessel in Rangoon. Rangoon, commercial capital of Burma, is located on the eastern coast of the Bay of Bengal in direct line with Sri Lanka's northeastern district of Mullaittivu where LTTE leader Prabhakaran has his operational jungle base. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the operation to purchase the arms shipment was launched on 16 August last year when the LTTE leader Prabhakaran sent his weapons expert (Kutty Shri) by boat to South India and from there to the Gulf with U.S.$10 million to pay for arms brought through international dealers operating in the Gulf. Meanwhile, Prabhakaran had ordered M.V. Ahad to Rangoon where the vessel was boarded by Kittu who had arrived from Austria. The Interpol reports that pressure brought on the LTTE by Malaysia and Singapore authorities had forced the terrorist organization to shift its headquarters to Rangoon.

Two-Week Death Toll Set at 30 LTTE Fighters, 38 Soldiers

BK2801114893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] During the past two weeks, security forces were able to repulse several attacks by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists at Weli Oya, Trincomalee, Vavuniya, and Mannar areas. Over 30 LTTE terrorists were confirmed killed during these attacks. Those killed included several LTTE high-ranking cadres, including the Trincomalee political leader and Nilaveli area leader. These details were announced by the Joint Operations Command spokesman, Brigadier N.K.V. Angammana, at the weekly Cabinet briefing at Gramodaya Center in Colombo this morning. Brig. Angammana said that security forces lost 38 soldiers and 10 were wounded in action during these attacks.

Meanwhile, action is being taken to open the Sangupiddy ferry for civilians, and the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] will work out the modalities for this purpose.

LTTE Leader's Peace Talks With Churchmen Welcomed

BK2701131893 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 16 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "The Signals From Jaffna"]

[Text] Anglican Bishop Kenneth Fernando's press conference on Thursday following his return from Jaffna naturally attracted national attention. The whole country is yearning for peace and the Bishop has at firsthand brought back the thinking of the reclusive man who can make it possible—LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

In addition to what Bishop Fernando said at the news conference, the DAILY NEWS obtained from Christian sources a fairly detailed account of the talks between the LTTE and the churchmen including Catholic Bishop Thomas Soundranayagam of Jaffna and Bishop D.J. Ambalavanar of the Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India. We have published this account too after verifying it with Bishop Fernando.

Prabhakaran's profession that the LTTE is willing to give up the Eelam demand provided a substantial alternative is offered is not new, but nonetheless valuable because it keeps the channels of communication open. It cannot be over-emphasised that what is necessary at this stage is to work on possibles and build up on areas of agreement. The basic objective is to stop the bloodshed and divert the nation's energies to reconstruction of the war ravaged areas and the development of the whole country.

We can all understand the desire of the highly motivated and well intentioned churchmen to ease the conditions of the beleaguered civilian population of the Jaffna peninsula who, as we said a few days ago, are in the predicament of the proverbial arecanut caught between the blades of the cutter. Vital communications between the peninsula and the mainland via the lagoon route is extremely hazardous; but people are forced to take the risk, as Bishop Kenneth and his party did, as the LTTE has closed the Elephant Pass route.

Prabhakaran remains intransigent about lifting the Tiger ban on using the Elephant Pass link between Jaffna and the mainland for "military reasons". Clearly, it is also military reasons that have prompted the concerned authorities to declare the lagoon as 'no go' zone. According to what the LTTE leader has told the Bishops, as many as 400 militants cross the lagoon on a single day. But the navy, which is aware of this, engage unarmed civilians taking the lagoon route and do not take on the armed Tigers.

That position is obviously untenable. The Sri Lanka Navy, like the rest of the armed forces, are battling the LTTE and not civilians. Why should a vastly better equipped force ignore the Tigers and wilfully engage civilians? Prabhakaran is right that the government has obligations and responsibilities to all the people of the country and has candidly said that the methods and objectives of a 'liberation organisation' cannot be compared with those of a government of a country. "The government has certain responsibilities which a liberation organisation does not have", he is reported to have said.

His frankness is welcome, but it does show that this 'liberation organisation' is not one whit worried about the travails of the people they claim to represent. The military interest takes precedence over the well-being of the people where the LTTE is concerned. They think the opposite must be true as far as the government is concerned and that position is not entirely without validity. So it's a case of mounting the moral arguments or using the human shield which has always been at the core of LTTE strategy.

There is no escaping the fact that the LTTE want to force civilians to use the lagoon route, paying a high price for the ferry service, because that provides the human shield for the Sea Tigers. Bishop Fernando rightly assesses that providing safe communication between Jaffna and the mainland and relaxing the ban on some of the items which presently may not be taken to the peninsula will better enable negotiations to begin on the right track. If such a formula does emerge, the LTTE too must think of a measure of reciprocity.

As much as the vast majority of the people were happy about even the "tiny opening" the Bishop's mission to Jaffna was able to achieve, the fact that six policemen were killed by the Tigers at a police post on the outer perimeter of a refugee camp at Asaikulam near Vavuniya even as the two men who were released to Bishop Kenneth's care were nearing Colombo would not have escaped the notice of most people.

Many hurdles remain to be cleared, but the very fact that the Anglican Bishop of Colombo was able to talk in friendship to Velupillai Prabhakaran in Jaffna has opened a new door to peace. There has been a free and frank exchange of concerns of both sides. Bishop Kenneth's courage and commitment deserves the thanks of the nation. Let us hope he has made more than the "tiny opening" he has modestly attributed to himself.